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Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs
Update...

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update

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

SUMMER 2003



Art shows off culture

Kevin McKenzie, an artist from the Cree and Métis Nations says art is his way to teach people about his culture.

"I want people to understand that I'm a First Nation person, and I want them to understand my culture, because I'm very proud of who I am."

Kevin has been painting since he was 13 years old. He says being an artist is having a vision, and having the confidence to follow it through.

"I'm working in a new medium, which is very challenging." Kevin works with a mould of a buffalo skull. "I take this sacred object, and then I re-introduce it," he says.

Kevin is one of many artists who takes part in the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

Acquisition/Exhibition Program.

The program gives Aboriginal artists the chance to show and sell their work. A jury chooses the artists for the program.

The program is a part of INAC's Indian and Inuit Art Centres. The centres promote artists who use traditional and contemporary ways of making art, such as weaving, carving, printmaking, photography and sculpture.

The centres also have information on Aboriginal artists. There is an art library, an Inuit resource centre and a National Indian Art Collection with over 4000 works of art by Aboriginal artists.

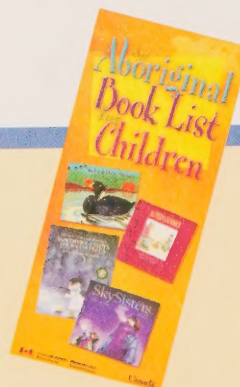


Kevin McKenzie is proud of his Cree and Métis culture.

For more information on artists or how to be part of the Acquisition/Exhibition Program, call **1 800 567-9604** toll-free or visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/art on the Internet.

**Hey kids — looking for fun this summer?
Read a book!**

The *Aboriginal Book List for Children* gives the names of some books telling Aboriginal stories written for 4 to 14 year olds. For your *free* copy, call **1 800 567-9604** toll-free or email infopubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca.



Canada

Elders keep traditions alive



Elder Vera Martin teaches youth the importance of hard work.

Elder Vera Martin says one of the best things ever said about her was by other Elders. They said that Vera is a good worker.

Vera is an Anishinaabe Elder and a member of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation in Ontario. She follows the teachings of the Three Fires Medewiwin or Ojibway Grand Medicine Society.

For Vera, age 69, working and helping others is important – a message she would tell youth.

"I would give them something to do. And I would teach them to help people," she says.

As an Elder, helping people is something Vera knows about. "I help people find their spirituality, clan, names—and their Indian-ness."

Vera loves her work. She has worked for many years helping others break their addictions. In the past, she was president and general manager of a construction company. She has also acted for television and film.

But she says that raising her eight children is one of the highlights of her life. She now has 20 grandchildren.

Another highlight was graduating with honours from Seneca College. There, she received a diploma in social work and was the only Aboriginal student.

"I'm an Indian, and I did it. That wasn't the expectation back then," she says.

Vera wants to see youth reach their goals and give back to their communities. This is how to keep traditions alive, Vera says.

Matrimonial real property study

After a couple breaks up, what happens to property they share, such as the home they live in?

Since there is no Canadian law which applies to the division of matrimonial real property on reserves, the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights will study this problem. The Committee will listen to witnesses this Fall and may make recommendations on possible solutions.

To learn more about the issue, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html on the Internet and click on "After marriage breakdown – Information on the on-reserve matrimonial home."

Language — a key to culture

Did you know that more than 50 Aboriginal languages are spoken across Canada?

Even so, fewer people in Canada can speak an Aboriginal language than ever before.

Over the next 11 years, the Government of Canada will invest over \$172 million to protect and promote Aboriginal languages and cultures. Together with national Aboriginal organizations, the Department of Canadian Heritage will set up a task force of mostly Aboriginal people.

The task force will listen to your ideas about how to promote, protect and bring new life to Aboriginal languages and cultures. Then, it will recommend an Aboriginal group to oversee the preservation of languages and cultures.

Some of the money will continue to go to the Aboriginal Languages Initiative for two more years. Through the initiative, you can get help to learn or teach an Aboriginal language. Today, the initiative is run by the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Métis National Council. In 2004, a new Aboriginal languages and cultures centre will take over.

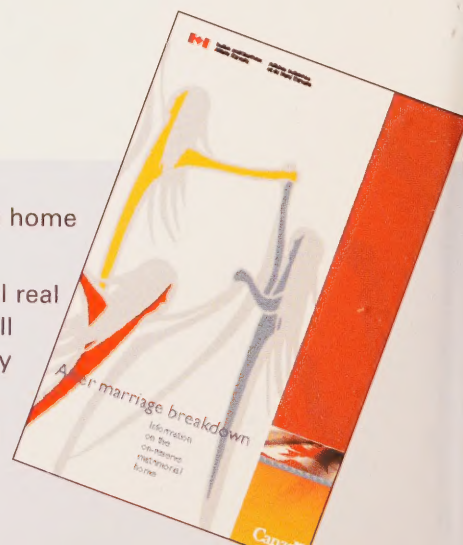
To find out more about what the government does to strengthen Aboriginal languages and cultures, visit www.canadianheritage.gc.ca on the Internet or call toll-free 1 866 811-0055.

Speak up!

Some Aboriginal languages have gained more speakers over the last five years. Languages being spoken more include:

- Dene
- Montagnais-Naskapi
- Oji-Cree
- Attikamekw
- Dakota/Sioux
- Mik'maq

Source: Census 2001



Joining the Canadian Forces

Have you ever thought about working as a soldier, a sailor, or a member of the Air Force?

You can enter the **Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program**. This lets Aboriginal people see what military life is about before actually joining.

After graduating from the program, you may take Basic Recruit Training with the Regular Forces.

We talked to some Aboriginal recruits right before Recruit Training. Here's what they said:



"I had a difficult choice to make between the Canadian and US Forces. What helped me decide was the cultural aspect that the Canadian Forces recognizes. They're very respectful of Native cultures."

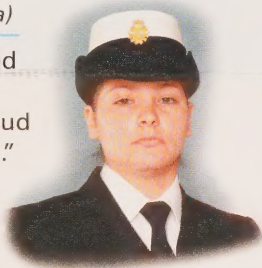
(Private Philip Kenneth Moore, Batchewana First Nation, Rankin Reserve, Ontario)

"Since I caused some grief in my early teens, I wanted to make my dad proud of me. And I wanted to be a better example for my younger brother. It's an honest way to make money."

(Private Leo James Giberson, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Manitoba)

"It was my day today to get picked on. Luckily, everybody gets their turn. It's good for morale. I'm proud of our teamwork and our success."

(Ordinary Seaman Joan Marie Paul, Indian Brook, Nova Scotia)



For more information on the Forces or the Aboriginal Entry Program, call toll-free **1 800 856-8488**, or visit www.recruiting.forces.gc.ca on the Internet.

Clean water

Over the next five years, the Government of Canada will spend **\$600 million** to make sure that water is safe to drink on reserves. This is called the **First Nations Water Management Strategy**.

The goal of the strategy is to keep drinking water clean and to have safe and well-run sewage systems. The government and First Nations people are working together to meet these standards.

The strategy includes:

- a plan to improve water systems;
- a program that monitors water quality; and
- more training programs for water operators.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has already tested more than 740 water treatment systems on reserves across Canada. The results can be found in a report called "National Assessment of Water and Wastewater Systems in First Nations Communities."

To learn more about the strategy or to get a copy of the report, call **1 800 567-9604** toll-free. You can also get the report off the Internet at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/prs. Click on "May - August" under 2003 and then click on "National Assessment of Water and Wastewater Systems in First Nations Communities."

Keep those cards and letters coming!

Thanks to everyone who has filled out the reply cards. Keep the cards coming in!

You can mail your comment card in right away—it doesn't need a stamp. Fill out the comment card and let us know what you think.

Your ideas matter!

We would like to receive your comments and suggestions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Did you find this issue informative? ☐ yes ☐ no

What other important topics would you like to see covered in future issues?

Comments: _____

☐ Send Government of Canada information to my email: _____

☐ Send *Update* to my friend at this address: _____

☐ It's okay to use my name and address for other government updates.

I would like to be kept informed on Government of Canada initiatives by:

☐ community television

☐ mail to my home

☐ band office

☐ community radio

☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper

☐ friendship centre

What's new with governance? Lots!

Thanks to First Nations people, Bill C-7, the proposed First Nations Governance Act, is changing.

First Nations people told the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources how they wanted to modify the proposed bill.

They made many suggestions. The proposed bill is changing as a result of some things First Nations people said they need and want, including:

- stronger protection for Aboriginal and treaty rights;
- a smaller role for the Minister in community business;
- improved protection of individual rights by better by-law enforcement; and
- clear respect for Aboriginal cultures and traditions.

The Government of Canada is also recommending two important additions:

- a Canadian Centre for First Nations Governance, led by First Nations to help communities develop and put governance structures in place; and
- an Ombudsman to hear complaints from First Nation people.

Debate starts again in September when Parliament returns.

To find out more about the proposed bill, you can go to a information-sharing session or get an information package. Visit our special website at www.fng-gpn.gc.ca or call us toll-free at 1 800 550-1540.

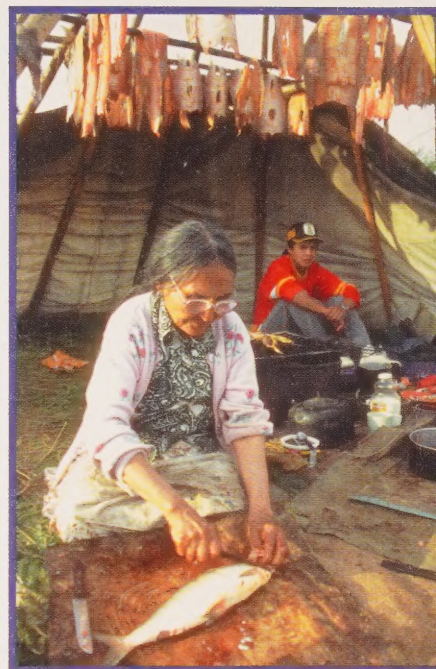
Protect against West Nile virus

West Nile virus season is here again. It is carried by infected mosquitos and can be serious for people of all ages. Although your chances of being bitten by an infected mosquito are low, you can take steps to prevent getting sick:

- wear light-coloured clothing;
- limit time outside at dawn and dusk;
- use mosquito repellents; and
- check door and window screens for holes.

You can also reduce mosquito breeding areas. Make sure there is no water collected in old tires, under flower pots, in children's toys or in other outdoor objects.

For more information, visit your Community Health Centre or nursing station, or go to the following website: www.westnilevirus.gc.ca.



Take action against West Nile virus! For more information, contact Health Canada at 1 800 816-7292.



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THE EDITOR UPDATE
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA
RM 1900
10 WELLINGTON ST
HULL QC K1A 9Z9

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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For information on Government of Canada programs and services, call toll-free 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232); TTY/TDD at 1-800-465-7735; or visit www.canada.gc.ca.

You can also read the *Update* at www.inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html.

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www.inac.gc.ca

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SPRING 2003

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News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

Internships put young people on the job

If you are a young person looking for a job, it's often the same story: no experience, no job—no job, no experience.

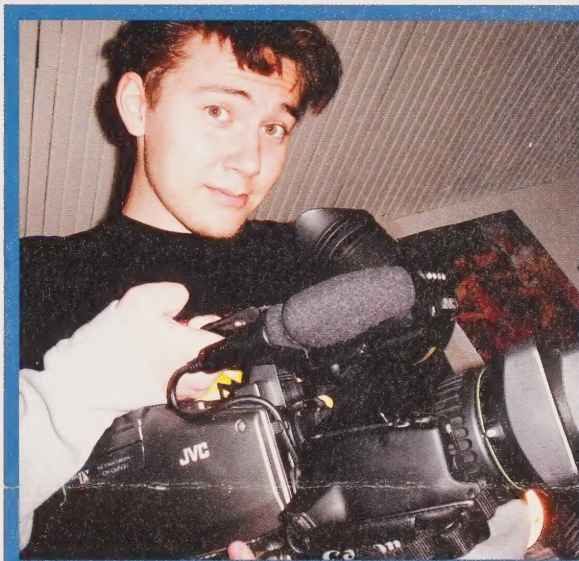
If you want to get a job, you might think about work placements, which are also called "internships." They give hands-on experience in real jobs. This helps you learn more about what kind of job you'd like in the future.

Dega Lazare is an 18 year-old filmmaker from the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawake. His work placement is at a Toronto film and television production company called Big Soul Productions.

"As an intern, it's good to explore different options and find out what you like," Dega says.

Laura J. Milliken is co-producer and partner of Big Soul Productions. She says, "Every opportunity is going to take you somewhere. Even if you are answering phones for a business, you are going to learn skills and meet people. This is the first step. Just shaking someone's hand is important."

Laura has brought three interns to Big Soul Productions through Miziwe Biik, an Aboriginal employment and training organization funded by **Human Resources Development Canada**. For more information about work placements, visit these websites:



Dega Lazare is getting real experience in film and video making.

**First Nations and Inuit Youth
Employment Strategy**
www.inac.gc.ca/ps/ys

**Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment
and Training**
www.miziwebiik.com/mbic

Young Canada Works — Canadian Heritage
www.pch.gc.ca/ycw-jct

Youth Employment Information
www.youth.gc.ca

Pride – Culture – Celebration

June 21st is National Aboriginal Day

For information on special events in your area, visit our website at www.inac.gc.ca

Or call 1-800-567-9604

TTY 1-866-553-0554



Canada

More job prospects



Gary Thompson is from Fort William.

Forestry, mining and natural gas companies are often located close to First Nation and Northern communities.

With more skilled workers retiring than ever before, companies are looking for workers. This could mean more good jobs for Aboriginal people close to home.

Canada's Aboriginal Human Resources Strategy can help you get one of these jobs.

The program has already helped more than 54,000 Aboriginal people find, get and keep jobs. It has also helped more than 150,000 Aboriginal youth and working-age adults get the schooling and skills they need to get a good job or run a business.

You can get a free information booklet called *Partnering for Progress*. It describes programs and services available through the Aboriginal Human Resources Strategy. You can also check with your band or tribal council to see what programs and services are available through your community.

For your copy of *Partnering for Progress*, call INAC toll-free at **1-800-567-9604**. If you have a hearing disability, call **1-866-553-0554** (TTY).

The Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council of Canada is another important part of the strategy. The council is helping create jobs for Aboriginal people. To learn more about it, call **1-866-711-5091** toll-free or visit www.ahrdcc.ca.

Résumé do's and don'ts

A résumé gives an employer a quick idea of who you are and what you can do.

Here are some tips to show you at your best.

Do use action words. For example, "*Developed* a website."

Do print on good quality, white paper.

Do keep it short—two pages is good, one is better.

Do keep it neat—avoid wrinkles, coffee stains, poor photocopies.

Do check for mistakes—then check again!

Don't sign or date your résumé—just include your name and your telephone number at the top.

Don't list your references—instead, have them ready for the interview.

Don't list your age, Social Insurance Number, marital status, height or weight.

Don't take a friend or relative with you to drop off your résumé.

Don't fold your résumé.

Protect against West Nile virus

West Nile virus season is here again. It is carried by infected mosquitos and can be serious for people of all ages. Although your chances of being bitten by an infected mosquito are low, you can take steps to prevent getting sick:

- wear light-coloured clothing
- limit time outside at dawn and dusk
- use mosquito repellents
- check door and window screens for holes

You can also reduce mosquito breeding areas. Make sure there is no water collected in old tires, under flower pots, in children's toys or in other outdoor objects.

For more information, visit your Community Health Centre or nursing station, or go to the following website: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/westnilevirus



The free booklet *Looking for a Job* can help you find work. To get a copy, call **1-800-935-5555** or visit the website at www.youth.gc.ca and click on "Looking for a job?" to see what it's about.

Volunteering

Helping others is a way of life. Every day, Aboriginal people are some of the 6.5 million people in Canada who volunteer their time and energy to their communities.

Helping others is also a great way to help yourself.

"What you give comes back to you," says Marc Maracle, Executive Director of the **National Aboriginal Voluntary Organization (NAVO)**.

"When you volunteer, other people get to know you better. You also show you are motivated and willing to learn."

These volunteer experiences can also help you find work.

The Government of Canada is working to increase awareness about volunteering and the volunteer sector. NAVO is part of this effort. NAVO's goal is to increase the number of Aboriginal people who volunteer in their communities.

If you want to spread the word about volunteering in your community or organization, you can order a video called *It's Our Way!* It shows Aboriginal people who volunteer in different ways across Canada.

For a free copy of *It's Our Way!*, call toll-free at **1-800-567-9604**. If you have a hearing disability, call **1-866-553-0554** (TTY).

For more information on volunteering and where to do it, visit the website at **www.volunteer.ca**.

It's our way!

Mae Louise Campbell, of Clan Mother's Turtle Lodge, says that in Aboriginal cultures, "Volunteer is not a word; it just is."

Keep those cards and letters coming!

Thanks to everyone who has filled out the reply cards. Keep the cards coming in!

You can mail your comment card in right away—it doesn't need a stamp. Fill out the comment card and let us know what you think. Your ideas matter!

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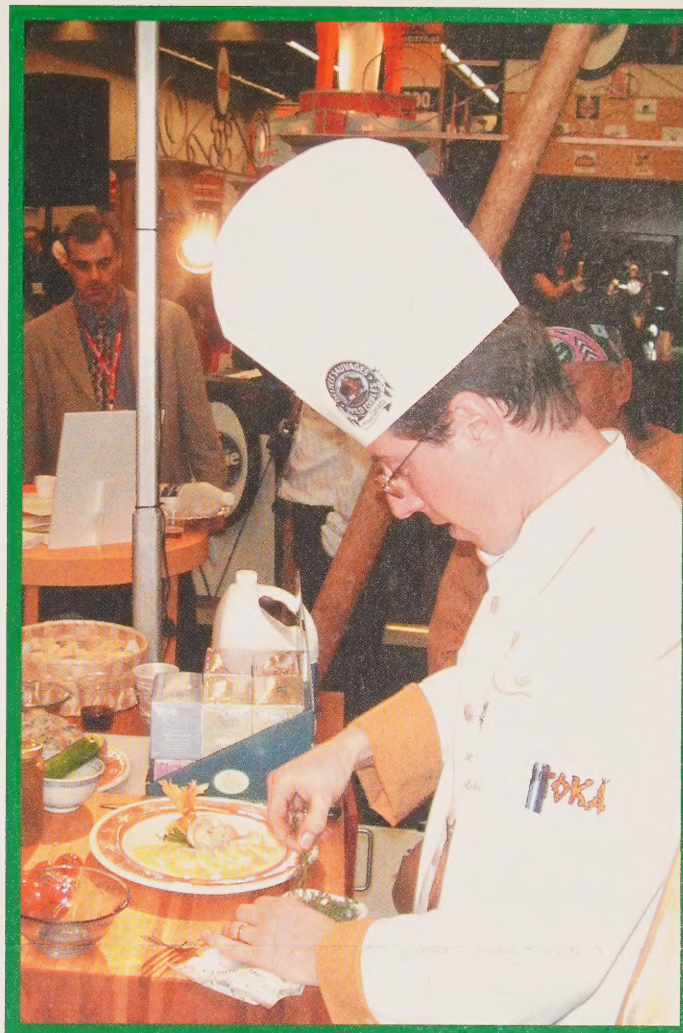
☐ band office

☐ community radio

☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper

☐ friendship centre



Cooking up jobs

Chef Laurent Tremblay makes food inspired by Aboriginal cultures at the Salon international de l'alimentation (SIAL) 2003. SIAL is a conference for companies that work in the food industry. The booth in the picture was sponsored by the Government of Canada through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Aboriginal Business Canada.

Health consent forms

If you are a Status Indian or recognized Inuit or Innu, Health Canada may pay for medical transportation, prescription medication, dental care and other non-insured, health-related benefits.

To keep receiving benefits in this way, you must now sign a consent form and mail it to Health Canada by September 1, 2003. The form protects your privacy when Health Canada processes your claims. Health Canada needs to use your personal information to process claims submitted by pharmacists, dentists and other health-care providers.

If you do not sign a consent form, Health Canada cannot pay for the health service. In order to get the service paid for, you will have to complete a claim form with a separate consent for each claim. Health Canada will pay you back for benefits covered by the non-insured health benefits program.

To get a consent form, a claim form or for more information, call the **Consent Information Centre** toll-free at **1-888-751-5011**. Or visit this Health Canada website: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb-dgspni/fnihb/nihb/consent/index.htm



Tessa Macintosh

Governance legislation: what's new?

The voices of First Nations and other people are helping strengthen the proposed First Nations Governance Act (Bill C-7). The proposed act is meant to help First Nations achieve self-government.

In March, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources finished travelling across Canada to get opinions, concerns and suggestions about the proposed act.

More than 500 people from across the country spoke to the committee.

Talking to the committee is one way for First Nations people to say what they think about the proposed act. What First Nations people have said has led to changes to the proposed act.

To follow the Parliamentary process or the work of the committee, visit www.parl.gc.ca.

For more news and for information on the proposed act and how it will benefit First Nations communities, visit our special website at www.fng-gpn.gc.ca or call us toll-free at **1-800-550-1540**.

Remember!

September 1, 2003, is the deadline for signing your consent form. For more information, call the Health Canada Consent Information Centre toll-free at **1-888-751-5011**.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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THE EDITOR UPDATE
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA
RM 1900
10 WELLINGTON ST
HULL QC K1A 9Z9



update

Developments of interest to Aboriginal people

AUTUMN 2002

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Photo: Tessa Macintosh

The Canada We Want

- To support **families and children**. Early childhood development programs will be set up and Aboriginal Headstart expanded. Communities will get help addressing fetal alcohol syndrome and its effects.
- To help children do better in **school**. Work will begin with the new National Working Group on Education and immediate steps will be taken to help First Nations children with special learning needs.
- To increase **business** development and **job** creation. Support will increase for Aboriginal Business Canada. Targeted training programs will make sure there is Aboriginal participation in resource development projects throughout Canada.
- To break the cycle of poverty for **urban** Aboriginal people.
- To support **democratic principles** and improve the quality of public administration in First Nations communities. The First Nations Governance legislation has been reintroduced.
- To expand **community-based justice** approaches to help Aboriginal youth and Aboriginal people living in the North.
- To preserve and enhance Aboriginal **languages** and **cultures**.



On September 30, the Government of Canada announced that the Canada we all want includes a higher quality of life for Aboriginal people. This is a critical step to building a better future for this country.

The Government laid out a number of its commitments specific to Aboriginal people in its Speech from the Throne.

- To improve **health**, and health care delivery. A First Nations Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Strategy will be developed.

You can read the Speech from the Throne at www.sft-ddt.gc.ca. You can call 1-800-0-Canada (1-800-622-6232) to order a copy.

WATCH FOR IT IN YOUR MAIL:

A GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND INFORMATION FOR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE

This new guide will make it easier to learn where to find more information about many useful government programs and services, such as health care, education and job training. Check it out in the new year.

Canada

SUSTAINING THE FOREST

Four years ago, Catherine Johnson, the newly hired Director of Economic Development for the Gesgapegiag Band, saw a clear-cut forest for the first time.

"The earth looked absolutely ravaged," she says as she recalls her flight over the Baldwin Territory in the Haute Gaspésie in Quebec, home to the community of 1,500 Micmac.

"I couldn't believe it. I was near tears. I asked myself how it could have happened."

She vowed to find a way for her community, the government and the forest companies to all benefit from a healthy forest. Johnson knew that her people could protect the land, and profit from it just like the bigger forestry companies who held the contracts. She also knew that forestry work would provide much needed training and jobs for the people in her community.

Johnson's work to develop a place for the people of Gesgapegiag in the local forestry industry has paid off. Training remains key to the success of the Gesgapegiag's

economic development. Local forestry companies all established training programs, creating 15 jobs in the sector where once only 3 existed. Over a dozen people, half of them women, are in training. Now community members feel confident about future work in the industry.

A grant for close to \$600,000 from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has also helped. With the money, the Band bought a "Menzi Muck," a tree-harvesting machine that can work on a steep slope without tearing up the soil.

Forestry led to environmental work. Many young people have worked during summers on a wildlife inventory, a riverbed clean-up and the construction of a visitor reception centre. Some are now interested in eco-tourism as a way to share the beauty of the territory.



NEW BUSINESSES

Over 25,000 Aboriginal businesses are now in operation in Canada — 863 started in 2001 alone. The Government of Canada has several programs to support initiatives in Aboriginal communities that help start new

businesses, create jobs, build partnerships and attract additional resources from the private sector.

You can find out more in the publication *Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Economic Development Program Information*. Visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ecd/edp_e.html for a complete list of programs.

A NEW VENTURE CAPITAL FUND

For many Aboriginal communities, successful small businesses like grocery stores and guide services are an important part of the local economy. But a new venture capital fund that's geared to meeting the needs of Aboriginal entrepreneurs will make it possible for them to grow beyond small, family-run businesses.

The Quebec Native Venture Capital Partnership (better known as SOCARIAQ, the acronym of its French-language name, Société de capital de risque autochtone du Québec) is the first fund of its kind in Canada. Five founding partners, including the federal and provincial governments, have put a total of \$6 million into the investment capital pool.

The fund can be used to buy part of a company outright or it can be used to provide various types of loans, especially during a company's early years when it usually makes less money.

The fund's ultimate goal is to create strong self-sustaining communities. SOCARIAQ will make it easier for Aboriginal entrepreneurs to dream bigger dreams of larger-scale businesses and create smaller spin-off companies.

For further information about SOCARIAQ, contact Pierre Pinsonneault at 1 (418) 843-7070 or by e-mail at adm@socariaq.ca or visit www.socariaq.ca.

Of Interest to You...

Aboriginal Canada Portal
www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca

Aboriginal Business Canada (Industry)
www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca

Aboriginal Business Programs
(Business Development Bank) 1-800-INFO-BDC or
www.bdc.ca

Building Aboriginal Economies publication
www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/nwltr/index_e.html

ACOA: PROGRESS FOR ATLANTIC FIRST NATIONS

The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and its federal and provincial partners are making good progress in supporting the development of Atlantic First Nations communities.

Dozens of projects that have stimulated economic growth in Aboriginal communities in New Brunswick have been identified and helped by the Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI). This program involves federal, provincial and Aboriginal governments, as well as Aboriginal organizations and individuals. The three-way process has also become a model for co-operation and collaboration in its seven years of existence.

The same can be said for the Economic Development Subcommittee of the Nova Scotia Tripartite Forum. Like JEDI, this is a community-based enterprise carried out by First Nations communities and the federal and provincial governments. It identifies and encourages projects designed to promote growth where it counts — on the ground, where people live and work, where people build futures.

Through the Regional Economic Development Agreement with the Province of New Brunswick, ACOA is helping to enhance First Nations participation in resource-based economies, aquaculture, entrepreneurship development and business management skills development.

Recent business initiatives across Atlantic Canada have included tourism projects such as the Wagmatcook Cultural and Heritage Centre and Chapel Island, and the Aboriginal Business Service Network, a resource that

Photo of Andrew Walmsley



improves access to customized business information for First Nations' private enterprises.

As well, ACOA provides support for projects launched by Aboriginal youth throughout Atlantic Canada through the SEED ConneXion Program. This program is administered by provincial Community Business Development Corporations, which receive their core funding from the Agency.

Taken together, all of these initiatives have been grounded in the federal economic agenda for Atlantic Canada. They reflect ACOA's mandate to help the people of this region chart their own courses to economic prosperity. They support the objective of creating and maintaining new and better jobs, and of raising income levels.

For more information about ACOA, visit www.acoa.ca.

KEEP THOSE CARDS AND LETTERS COMING!

Thanks for filling out the comment cards. Many of you asked for information on economic development and we've provided some of that here. A special thanks to Nunavut Youth Consulting who wrote to tell us about their community work. You can find out more at www.nunavutyouth.com.

Thanks also to Noah Matt from Akulivik, Quebec, who wrote to say that like Jordin Tootoo, the Inuk hockey player featured in our last edition, he also played in the NHL. Since he played in the 1980s, Noah may well have been the first Inuk in the NHL.

So fill out the comment card — your ideas will help shape future issues of *Update*.

We would like to receive your comments and suggestions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Did you find this issue informative? [yes] [no]

What other important topics would you like to see covered in future issues?

Comments: _____

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☐ Send *Update* to my friend at this address: _____

☐ It's okay to use my name and address for other government updates.

I would like to be kept informed on Government of Canada initiatives by

community television

mail to my home

☐ band office

community radio

Internet

community newspaper

friendship centre

FIRST NATIONS VETERANS: ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

If you served with the Canadian Armed Forces in the First World War, Second World War or Korean War, and settled on a reserve after the wars, you may be able to receive up to \$20,000 from the Government of Canada.

Surviving spouses or common-law partners may also be eligible for the First Nations Veterans Package. Their estates may also be eligible if the Veteran, surviving spouse or common-law partner passed away after February 1, 2000.

Applications must be submitted by **February 15, 2003**. To find out more about who is eligible, or to request an application form, call toll-free: **1-800-818-3286**. For the Hearing Impaired call **1-800-465-7735**

Or write:

Veterans Affairs Canada
First Nations Veterans Project
PO Box 7700
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 8M9
www.vac-acc.gc.ca



Photo of Chuck and Bertha Williams

FIRST NATIONS GOVERNANCE LEGISLATION

The proposed First Nations Governance Act will give First Nations people power to make sure their communities work better for them.

The bill is now before Parliament. It reflects the views of thousands of First Nations people who took part in its development. There is still time for you to get involved.

One way to participate is by arranging an information-sharing session in your community. Visit the First Nations Governance website (www.fng-gpn.gc.ca), or call **1-800-550-1540** to find out more.

Or you can write to the Parliamentary committee, which will review the bill this fall. The committee will accept written submissions and hold public hearings on the proposed legislation. Here's how to contact the committee:

Clerk
Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources
Room 632, Wellington Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Phone: (613) 996-1173

Fax: (613) 996-1962

E-mail: aanr@parl.gc.ca

For updated information about the governance initiative and links to relevant websites, visit www.fng-gpn.gc.ca or call **1-800-550-1540**.



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THE EDITOR UPDATE
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA
RM 1900
10 WELLINGTON ST
HULL QC K1A 9Z9

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Complete the reply card, clip it out and send it in (postage is already paid) or call INAC General Enquiries at (819) 997-0380. You can also send us a fax at (819) 953-2305, or drop us an e-mail message at Update@inac.gc.ca.

For information on Government of Canada programs and services, call toll-free **1-800-0-Canada (1-800-622-6232)**; TTY/TDD: **1-800-465-7735**; or visit www.canada.gc.ca.

You can also read the *Update* at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html.

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update

SUMMER 2002

Developments of interest to Aboriginal people

CAI
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Jordin Tootoo: Setting Goals and Reaching Them!



Photo: Bruce Monk. Used with the permission of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

"It's ironic being picked by the Predators. I look at myself as a predator on ice. It's going to be a great ride," said the first Inuk – and Nunavut player – to be drafted by the NHL.

While the community of Rankin Inlet does have an arena, there weren't even two teams. So Tootoo grew up playing shinny against his older brother's friends, before leaving home at 14 to pursue his dream.

He knows his success may help others reach for their dreams.

"Hopefully, it will open some doors for Inuit and show them if they set goals they can achieve them," added Tootoo.

Tootoo's jersey was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame as the first Nunavut player to represent Canada overseas. The Wheat Kings awarded him the Most Popular Player trophy not once, but twice! Most recently, he was honoured with the National Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award.

As if all of that wasn't enough, he's even opened his own business with his brother, Terence. Team Tootoo sells everything from caribou jerky to T-shirts that say "Team Tootoo."

Jordin Tootoo, of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, is not only a gifted athlete; he's also a young entrepreneur, co-owner of a retail business called Team Tootoo.

Jordin, who plays for the Western Hockey League's Brandon Wheat Kings in Manitoba, was drafted in the 2001 NHL entry draft by the Nashville Predators.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

Winnipeg hosts the 2002 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) from **July 25 to August 4**. Aboriginal athletes will take part in 16 sports, three of which will be traditional.

The event will also celebrate Aboriginal culture. Performers will share the dance, music and languages of Métis, Inuit, First Nations and Native American peoples.

Check out the Web site at www.2002naig.com, or contact the 2002 NAIG Office at 1760 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2V 1Z7. Or call toll-free 1-877-682-2000.

Canada

OFF TO A GOOD START AT AWAHSUK

In 2000, the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments reached a landmark agreement to foster and report on early childhood development across Canada. The Government of Canada agreed to transfer \$2.2 billion over five years to support provincial and territorial programs and services for young children and their families.

Most provinces and territories have announced how they will use the new federal funding to reach out to families with young children who have special needs, including Aboriginal families.

This past December, the Government of Canada announced an additional \$100 million to enhance programs such as Child Care and Head Start.

The following is just one example of a program in action.

Pride is a value that translates into lifelong learning. And for Robbie Brown, that is what Awahsuk preschool is all about.

"When an Aboriginal child is proud of their heritage and has self-esteem, then they learn more," Brown says.

As Program Co-ordinator for the Awahsuk Preschool in Surrey, British Columbia, Brown and her co-workers

are working hard with parents and community members to meet the early education needs of young Aboriginal children aged three to five.

Awahsuk relies on the Aboriginal community, Elders and cultural teachers. Brown says their involvement provides children and adults with a connection to the past, and reinforces the importance of mutual respect. The children learn about, and take part in, cultural activities such as dancing, singing, language, art and spiritual teachings.

"By developing pride in their Aboriginal heritage, along with getting the necessary skills, these children will have a head start and be ready for school," says Brown.

For more information on Awahsuk Preschool or for an application form, please telephone Robbie Brown at (604) 584-1152, or e-mail awahsuk@telus.net. For more information on Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Children's Programs, check out the Web site at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pe-cp/index_e.html, e-mail childrensprogram@inac.gc.ca, or contact your nearest INAC office.

THE CHANGING FACE OF EDUCATION

Between 1991-92 and 1998-99, the enrolment of First Nations children in elementary and secondary schools increased by 20,407 to 117,000.

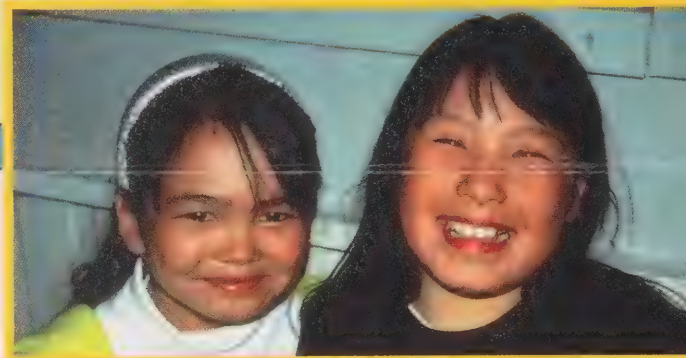
To meet the changing needs of First Nations students and educators, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada introduced a program called Education Reform in 1998. Since then, several programs and initiatives – some large, some small – have creatively transformed the face of Aboriginal education.

Funds are available to First Nations schools and education authorities to improve the quality of education, and help more students to stay in school and graduate. Initiatives focus on four major themes:

- strengthening First Nations education management and governance capacity;
- improving the effectiveness of classroom instruction;
- supporting community and parental involvement with schools;
- aiding the "School to Work" transition.

Projects range from technology upgrades in First Nations schools to partnerships and capacity-building initiatives involving First Nations, regional Aboriginal education organizations, school districts and provincial ministries of education.

Last year, First Nations managed three-quarters of the Education Reform budget. For example, the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, the First



Nations Education Steering Committee in British Columbia and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations distributed funding to First Nations for education.

Communities across the country are also helping students receive the kinds of life skills they need to lead healthy, happy lives. The Kativik School Board worked to improve Inuit students' self-esteem by teaching them traditional skills. The students built a qajaq (kayak) and qamutik (sled) with the support of school staff and community Elders.

To address children's special education needs, programs funded included *None Left Behind – Addressing Special Needs Education in First Nation Schools*, a program of the First Nation School Association.

At a national level, INAC is working in partnership with the Chiefs' Committee on Education of the Assembly of First Nations. To date, the department has allocated \$126 million to support more than 1,700 initiatives.

For more information on Education Reform call your local INAC office, or check out the Web site at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Since 1996, Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (YES) has supported more than 66,000 First Nations and Inuit youth in their search for lasting and rewarding careers.

YES helps youth make the move from school to work by funding programs that give them on-the-job experience. Canada's Aboriginal Digital Opportunities (CADO) is one such program.

CADO gives young Aboriginal people (aged 15 to 30) the chance to gain work experience by producing Web sites about Aboriginal culture, traditions, values and modern life. This pilot project is open to First Nations and Non-Status Indians, Métis and Inuit youth. Industry Canada awards up to \$25,000 per project through proposals from registered legal entities, such as incorporated companies, registered non-profit companies and governments. Proposals must be carried out by teams. Projects must be about, and by, youth members of Aboriginal communities in Canada.

While CADO has wrapped up for this year, you can get more information about it, and future possibilities; just call Industry Canada toll-free **1-800-575-9200**; e-mail **collections@ic.gc.ca**; or visit the Web site at **http://collections.ic.gc.ca/cado**.

The First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNI YES) consists of five programs to help youth make the transition from school to work. For information on the FNI YES Summer Student Career Placement Program, Science and Technology Camp Program, Youth Business Program, Youth Work Experience Program and the Co-Operative Education Program, contact your local INAC office.

WE ASKED FOR YOUR SUGGESTIONS ...

Thank you for your story ideas. You'll see some of them here (Children and Education) with more to follow.

If you have an idea or a comment, just pop the enclosed card in the mail. No stamp needed.

We appreciate your patience as we develop our mailing list to reach Aboriginal households.



LITERACY

Readng to, and with our children, is a special time to connect with our little ones. There are many books available to help keep Aboriginal traditions alive. Teachers and students can order from a list of free publications through the Learning Circle at **learningcircle@inac.gc.ca**, or call INAC General Enquiries at **(819) 997-0380**. You can also use the enclosed reply card to request the copy of the list.

For more information about literacy, including our *Aboriginal Book List for Children* listing more than 125 titles, visit the INAC Web site at **www.ainc-inac.gc.ca**.

We would like to receive your comments and suggestions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Did you find this issue informative? ☐ I yes ☐ no

What other important topics would you like to see covered in future issues?

Comments: _____

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☐ It's okay to use my name and address for other government updates

I would like to be kept informed on Government of Canada initiatives by

☐ community television ☐ mail to my home ☐ band office

☐ community radio ☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper ☐ friendship centre

NATIONAL CHILD BENEFIT

The National Child Benefit (NCB) is a partnership between First Nations who deliver social assistance and federal, provincial and territorial governments.

Through NCB, First Nations may reinvest in programs and services that fit the needs of low-income families and the community. First Nations' reinvestment falls into five broad areas: child care or day care, child nutrition, early childhood development, employment and training opportunities, and community enrichment, including cultural and traditional teachings.

For more information about First Nations and the National Child Benefit, please contact your regional office of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

E-mail us at: childrensprogram@inac.gc.ca, or check out www.ainc-inac.gc.ca.

SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY GUIDE

After completing high school, many students still need help to reach their dreams. In some cases, a scholarship can make the difference between going to and finishing university or college. A new electronic directory, known as the e-directory, gives Aboriginal students a listing of more than 400 awards totalling more than \$2 million.

The e-directory of Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards for Aboriginal Students can be found on the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Web site at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca, or call toll-free 1-800-567-9604.



GOVERNANCE LEGISLATION

No one would be happier than I would be if tomorrow every First Nation in Canada signed self-government agreements that would allow us to relegate the Indian Act to the dustbin – as a relic of an earlier time and outdated ideas.

But wishing won't make it happen ... it's important to deal with the Indian Act – at the very least to remove the impediments to progress that it represents. That is why we are moving forward with what has come to be known as the First Nations Governance Initiative, which will supply the modern tools missing from the Indian Act and pave the way for greater self-reliance, economic development and hope among First Nations communities.

There is no doubt that moving forward on treaties is important – and we are doing so.

But this is not an either-or proposition. We can do both. Indeed, the governance initiative is not intended to replace treaty negotiations, nor to implement self-government under the inherent right policy. What it will do is provide First Nations operating under the Indian Act with the tools they need to foster effective, responsible and accountable governance.

– the Honourable Robert D. Nault, P.C., M.P.,
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development,
“Beyond the Indian Act” Conference, Spring 2002.

For more information on the proposed First Nations Governance (FNG) legislation, call toll-free 1-800-550-1540, e-mail us at Governance@inac.gc.ca, or log onto the Web site at www.fng-gpn.gc.ca.

Copies of the existing *Indian Act* and subsequent amendments are available from:

General Enquiries and Publications Distribution
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H4

Telephone: (819) 997-0380

Web site:

www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/leg/lgis_e.html.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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For information on Government of Canada programs and services, call toll-free 1-800-0-Canada (1-800-622-6232); TTY/TDD: 1-800-465-7735; or visit www.canada.gc.ca.

You can also read the *Update* at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html.

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News of interest to Aboriginal people
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Communities take action to protect environment

More than 1,000 Inuit Elders and children

posed for this photograph in April 2005 to bring attention to how climate change is affecting the North. Warmer temperatures, melting glaciers and loss of ice cover are affecting the lands, human health, animals and infrastructure that are important to First Nations, Inuit and Métis lifestyle and culture across Canada.

That's why the Government of Canada is working with Aboriginal and Northern communities to take action on climate change and adapt to the changing environment. Learn more at these websites:

www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/clc

www.climatechange.gc.ca

<http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca>

www.c-ciarn.ca



PHOTO: DAVID CRANE/SPECTRAL Q

Green energy powers community and economy

Imagine meeting your community's energy needs, while taking care of the environment.

Last fall, that dream became a reality for **Hupacasath First Nation** in British Columbia. They are leading the development of a hydro-electricity plant that will give power to their entire community, as well as 6,000 homes on Vancouver Island—without hurting the environment. Their partners include Ucluelet First Nation, the City of Port Alberni and Synex Energy.

The plant will use water power from a creek to produce "green" energy. It's called green energy because it will not disturb fish habitat or pollute the air or water. That means reducing the greenhouse gases that lead to climate change.

"Doing a green project like this is very exciting," says Chief Councillor Judith Sayers. "We wanted to help address the huge energy shortage on Vancouver Island in a way that is in keeping with our community's traditional values."

The project will also create profits and jobs for the entire community.

"Doing a green project like this is very exciting," says Chief Councillor Judith Sayers.

Recognizing these long-term benefits, the Government of Canada's **Aboriginal and Northern Community Action Program** has given financial and technical support to the project. This program works in partnership with First Nations and Inuit communities to develop sustainable sources of energy and take action on climate change. It is managed by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, with technical support from Natural Resources Canada. Find out more by visiting the Internet at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/clc or calling toll-free 1 800 567-9604.



▲ Judith Sayers, Chief Councillor of Hupacasath First Nation

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page 2

Progress on federal contaminated sites
page 3

Increased benefits for seniors
page 4



Canada



TAKING CARE OF THE CARIBOU:

Community action helps protect animals at risk

Federal programs for energy-efficient buildings

Saving energy means saving money—and protecting the environment. The Office of Energy Efficiency at **Natural Resources Canada** can provide tools, services and financial incentives to help improve the energy efficiency of businesses, organizations and homes. These services are available to First Nations and Inuit communities across Canada.

For businesses and organizations:

■ **Energide for Existing Buildings** provides publications, training and tools. Members can also apply for **Energy Retrofit Assistance** funding to plan and put projects in place. Aboriginal, Northern and remote organizations get special consideration and may be eligible for additional funding.

■ The **Commercial Building Incentive Program** offers funding to design new energy-efficient buildings, including Band offices, schools, hospitals and cultural centres.

For more information go to the website www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/buildings or call toll-free 1 877 360-5500.

For housing:

■ **EnerGuide for Houses** can help reduce energy costs by making new and existing homes in your community more energy efficient. Natural Resources Canada is looking for Aboriginal service organizations to deliver the program in areas such as Nunavut, Nunavik and other remote areas.

For more information go to www.energideforhouses.gc.ca and click on "homeowners," or call toll-free 1 800 387-2000.

For centuries, the White River First Nation

has shared its homeland with the Woodland Caribou on the Yukon-Alaska borderlands. Today, the herd is getting dangerously small and is at risk of dying off.

That's why the community is taking action to protect the caribou—and preserve their traditional lifestyle and culture.

"We traditionally hunted the caribou for food and skin. Now the community is involved to bring back the caribou population from dying off," says Dwayne Broeren. He is White River's Game Guardian Custodian and a member of the Northern Tutchone.

In 2003, they helped launch the **Chisana Caribou Recovery Project** in partnership with the Yukon Government and environmental groups. Their goal is to increase the number of caribou by making sure that more calves survive.

Every spring, a team of experts and scientists bring the pregnant mothers to a fenced-in area where they give birth to their calves in safety. A few months later, when the calves are strong enough to outrun their predators, they are released back into the wild.

"You can't help but get attached to the mothers and babies. It is rewarding to see them leave the fence and have a fighting chance to survive," says Dwayne.

The project is very successful: 75 percent of the calves born in captivity survive. Only 13 percent of those born in the wild would survive.



▲ **More caribou calves are surviving thanks to the Chisana Caribou Recovery Project.**



PHOTO: MICHELLE OAKLEY, YUKON GOVERNMENT

▲ **Last spring, Dwayne Broeren (far right) helped capture 50 pregnant caribou and take care of their newborn calves.**

The community is also teaching local students about the project—and inspiring a future generation of environmentalists.

"We brought a group of students to see the caribou and learn about the project. Some may decide to become biologists, or even fly helicopters," says Dwayne.

The Government of Canada has given financial support to this project through the **Habitat Stewardship Program**, which is managed by Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Parks Canada Agency. This program funds Aboriginal environmental organizations, Aboriginal groups and others for projects that promote the conservation and protection of species at risk and their habitats.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Habitat Stewardship Program:
www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/hsp-pih

Species at risk:
www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca

The Chisana Caribou Recovery Project:
www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/stelias/caribou 🌐

Taking action on contaminated sites

The Government of Canada

is continuing to invest the money needed to take immediate action at high-priority federal contaminated sites across Canada

In 2005-2006, through the **Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan**, the federal government invested more than \$150 million to address 97 high-priority sites, and conduct technical assessments to determine next steps at about 500 other sites across Canada. This is part of \$3.5 billion of long-term funding committed in the 2004 Federal Budget

That means more resources to address contaminated sites that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is responsible for on reserve lands and in the North. The Department is already stepping up its work at several high-priority sites. The priority at all of these sites is to protect human health and the environment, and to create economic and job opportunities for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and Northerners. For example

- In Manitoba, \$4.2 million has been dedicated to clean up two contaminated sites at Barren Lands First Nation and Sumbonbee Cree Nation. Work is underway at both sites, creating jobs and economic benefits for community members

- In Nunavut, four contracts have already been awarded, totalling \$31.8 million, to take action right away on two contaminated sites—CAM-F Sarcpa Lake on the Melville Peninsula and FOX-C Ekilugad Fiord on Baffin Island. Three of the four contracts were awarded to Inuit-owned companies. This is creating jobs, training and economic opportunities for Inuit in the region

The federal government is responsible for more than 4 000 contaminated sites in Canada. These sites are contaminated by substances that might pose a risk to human health and the environment, and are in places like abandoned mines, airports, military bases and reserve lands

The federal government is committed to addressing these existing sites, and keeping new sites from being contaminated

FIND OUT MORE:

Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan:
www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/050802_n_e.htm

Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory:

www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/dtfr-rbtlc-sc

Northern Contaminated Sites Program

www.aicn-iac.gc.ca/ps/nsp/const/index_e.html ☐

Progress on contaminated sites

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is responsible for managing and cleaning up contaminated sites on reserve lands and in the North. To date, the Department has

- closed or cleaned up more than half of the contaminated sites on reserve lands and in the North, for example, in Yukon, \$46 out of \$90 contaminated and hazardous waste sites have been cleaned up,
- invested about \$10 million a year to assess and clean up sites on reserve lands; and
- invested about \$65-70 million a year to address sites in the North, where contaminated sites are more complex to clean up.



CLEAN UP COMPLETE AT RESOLUTION ISLAND

Considered one of the largest contaminated sites in Nunavut, Resolution Island has just wrapped up its final year of clean up. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is responsible for the site, which was contaminated by 20 years of military operations. The Inuit-owned Qikiqtalaq Corporation led the clean-up project, which has created employment and training for Inuit workers and generated over \$15 million worth of business opportunities in Nunavut. For more information, go to www.aicn-iac.gc.ca/nunuv/ets_e.html.

Jim Prentice was elected to the House of Commons in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006. He has served as Critic for Indian Affairs and Northern Development and been a member of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Prentice has specialized in property rights and has focused on relocations, environmental protection suits and restricted development areas. He also served as a commissioner of the Indian Specific Claims Commission of Canada for 10 years and is recognized by his peers as an expert in land claims negotiations. Mr. Prentice travelled to South Africa twice as an expert adviser on how to protect property rights in that country's new constitution

Mr. Prentice is married to Karen and they have three daughters



Aboriginal organizations building environmental expertise

Aboriginal organizations and communities are working together to develop their environmental expertise, and to increase their capacity to design and deliver environmental programs to their members. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal communities and organizations to meet this goal, and is currently supporting these new projects:

- The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) is developing an environmental excellence vision that is shaped by First Nations, for First Nations. This vision will create a plan for the CIER to better meet the environmental needs of First Nations communities. For more information, contact CIER at 1 204 956-0660 or at www.cier.ca.
- The Indigenous Cooperative on the Environment is a new network that gives information, technical help and traditional knowledge on environmental issues to Aboriginal communities, organizations and environment workers. For more information, go to www.ic-environment.ca.
- INAC's new Reserve Land and Environment Management Program will give First Nations communities the tools and training to build knowledge and skills in land and environmental management. Currently being piloted in 16 communities, the program is designed to help them exercise greater control over land and environmental management decisions.



We would like to receive your comments and suggestions about Update.

Name	Address
Do you find this issue informative? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Comments	
What topics would you like to see covered in future issues?	
Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Send Update to my address listed above. <input type="checkbox"/> Send Update to me by e-mail at:	

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UPDATE

Update is sent to First Nations and Inuit communities and organizations four times a year, and costs about 20 cents a copy to produce and mail.

You can read **Update** on the Internet at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/upd/index_e.html

You can subscribe or send your comments to **Update** using the attached postage-paid reply card, or by

E-mail: Update@inc.gc.ca

Fax: (819) 953-2305

Telephone (toll-free): 1 800 567-9604 or TTY/IDD: 1 866 553-0554

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For information on Indian and Northern Affairs in Canada programs and services

Website: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

E-mail: InfoPub@inc-inac.gc.ca

Telephone (toll-free): 1 800 567-9604 or TTY/IDD: 1 866 553-0554

For information on Government of Canada programs and services

Website: canada.gc.ca

Telephone (toll-free): 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)

or TTY/IDD: 1 800 465-7735

Best practices in Aboriginal tourism

A new Government of Canada

publication—**Atik Atik: Land of the Caribou**—highlights best practices in Aboriginal tourism in 13 communities in northwestern Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. The publication is designed to inform, inspire and assist both Aboriginal and rural communities as they work to develop their tourism potential. To order a copy, call toll-free 1 800 567-9604.



UPDATE is going to take a break!

During the next few months, **Update** is going to take the opportunity to have a little down time. We will take a look at what works about **Update** and what we might like to change to better serve all our audiences. We expect to be back in 2007, with a newsletter that will continue to serve your needs, and at the same time provide a broader range of information of interest to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis audiences.

As always, we are happy to receive your comments and suggestions. On the last page of this issue you will find a reply card and e-mail address to reach us. We encourage you to take the time to let us know how you think **Update** could be improved and reach a larger audience.

Increased benefits for seniors with a low income

If you are an Aboriginal senior, you should know that benefits for low-income seniors increased in January 2006

The Old Age Security (OAS) program pays benefits to most people over 65. In addition to the monthly OAS benefit, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) helps low-income seniors meet their day-to-day needs

For seniors who qualify for the GIS there is good news—the Guaranteed Income Supplement increased by about \$18 a month for single people and by about \$29 a month for couples on January 1, 2006. It will increase by the same amount again on January 1, 2007

There are more benefits under the OAS program. If you are between 60 and 64 and have a spouse or common-law partner who is eligible for the GIS, you may qualify for the **Allowance**. If you are between 60 and 64 and your partner has died, you may be entitled to the **Allowance for the survivor**. These benefits also increased in January 2006

You must apply to receive these benefits.

To find out more about Old Age Security and benefits for seniors with a low income, visit www.sdc.gc.ca, or call Toll-free 1 800 277-9914 TTY 1 800 255-4786 ☎



KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE: ABORIGINAL VETERANS AND YOUTH TAKE PART IN SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
In November, First Nations, Métis and Inuit spiritual leaders, veterans and youth traveled to the battlefields of Europe on the *Aboriginal Spiritual Journey*. Youth delegate Jasmine Poitras—John from Alberta said the trip was an opportunity to “learn more about the war and the sacrifices of our brave soldiers.” She is seen here with her great-grandfather, Métis Veteran Lloyd Poitras at a war memorial in France. View youth diaries, photos and more at www.a-inc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=feature/abspirit.

SISTERS IN SPIRIT:

Working together to address violence against Aboriginal women

The Native Women's Association of Canada is leading a new initiative to address violence against First Nations, Métis and Inuit women in Canada

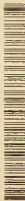
Through the **Sisters in Spirit initiative**, the **Native Women's Association of Canada** will work with other Aboriginal women's organizations and the Government of Canada to address

violence that First Nations, Métis and Inuit women face because of racism and gender discrimination. This type of violence usually happens outside of the home, and is often against those most vulnerable

The Government of Canada is providing \$5 million to support this five-year initiative. Visit www.sistersinspirit.ca for more information ☎

THE EDITOR UPDATE
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News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

update

SPRING 2005

Paddle your way to health and wellness

When she's paddling down the majestic Grand River, Cindy Martin feels connected to her community—and to her Cayuga roots—at **Six Nations of the Grand River Territory** in Ontario.

"It brings us closer to our ancestors who paddled down this river for many generations," says Cindy.

Cindy is an avid paddler and leader of the Aka:we Canoe Club. Aka:we is the Mohawk word for paddle.

The community started the club in 1998 to promote health and well-being. Today more than 90 people, aged 9 to 49, are active members.

"Paddling with friends and family helps build a stronger community," says Cindy, who loves to get out on the water with her daughter Lauren (seen at right) and son Darcy.

As Traditional Wellness Coordinator, Cindy also sees the health benefits: "Being out on the water offers both exercise and stress relief."

Last year, Aka:we became an official racing club when it joined the Canadian Canoe Association. This means they can compete with other clubs in Canada and the world, including at the 2005 North American Indigenous Games. Paddling clubs at Kahnawake and Kanesatake in Quebec, and at Chippewas of the Thames in Ontario, are also members of this racing community.

The Canadian Canoe Association also gives financial and technical support that helps Aboriginal communities participate in canoeing and kayaking sporting events.

This is thanks to a new program called the **Aboriginal Paddling Initiative**. This program is a partnership with Aboriginal Sport Circle and the Canada Games Council, and is funded through Sport Canada. They have already supported seven clubs across Canada—with more to come.

"Paddling with friends and family helps build a stronger community," says Six Nations paddler and health expert Cindy Martin.

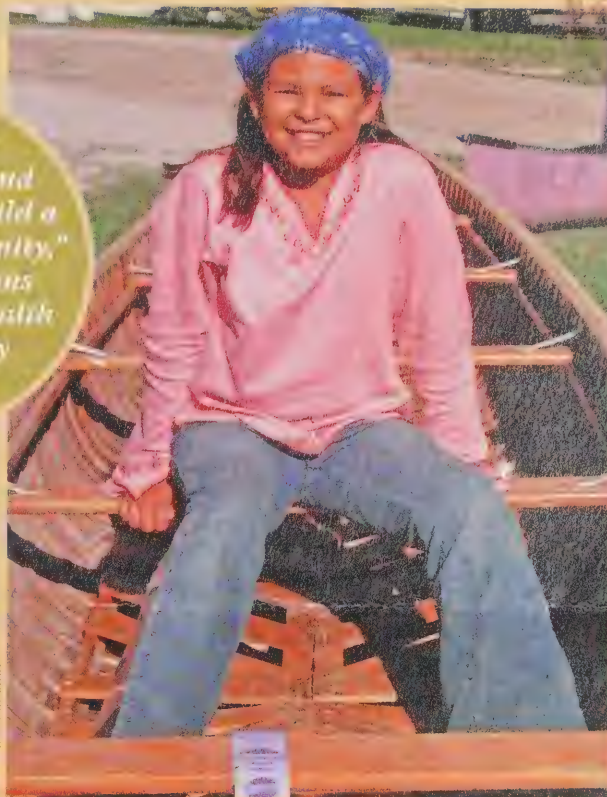


PHOTO: CINDY MARTIN

▲ **Nine-year-old Lauren King looks forward to another season of paddling with family and friends at Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in Ontario. Here she's all smiles at the first annual Pauline Johnson Regatta in 2004—and she plans to take part again this year at the August 13th event.**

"The program is designed to give Aboriginal people better access to Canada's canoe and kayak sport system," says program director John Edwards. "It also encourages clubs and community building."

If your community is interested, you can e-mail John Edwards for more information at jhedwards@canoekayak.ca or call **1 (613) 260-1818**, extension *2201.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Canadian Canoe Association: www.canoekayak.ca

Aboriginal Sport Circle: www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca

Sport Canada: www.pch.gc.ca/progs/sc/index_e.cfm

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New activity booklet helps kids stay safe
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Canada



New projects to help reduce smoking

Make your house a healthy home

Learning how to prevent and clean up mold growing in your house can improve the air you breathe—and your health.

The following publications from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation show you how to prevent mold from growing—and how to recognize and safely clean up small amounts of mold. You will also find out what to do for more serious mold problems.

First Nations Occupants' Guide to Mold

Mold in Housing: An Information Kit for First Nations Communities

About Your House—Fighting Mold: The Homeowners' Guide

About Your House—Measuring Humidity in Your Home

If you live in the North, look for the **About Your House North** series.

To order any of these free publications, call Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation toll-free at 1 800 668-2642. For more information about housing, visit the Internet at www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca.



From nicotine patches to healing circles

, the first on-reserve smokers' clinic in Canada uses both modern and traditional methods to help members stop smoking.

"We are trying to marry best health care practices with best traditions that are unique to the community," says Jo-Anne Allan. She is the clinic nurse manager of the Sliammon Smokers Clinic in British Columbia.



▲ **Two very good reasons to quit smoking:** Vicki Harry's children, Jayce and Gavin, begged her to stop smoking so she would be around to see them grow up. She's been smoke-free ever since. Vicki is now helping others to stop smoking as a certified Aboriginal tobacco facilitator and a cultural support worker at the Sliammon Smokers Clinic in British Columbia.

The **Sliammon First Nation** opened the doors to its new clinic in November 2004. Already, they have helped more than 30 people.

"The response is unbelievable. We are very pleased," says Jo-Anne.

This is one of eight new projects funded by Health Canada. Projects are also underway in Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The goal is to help reduce high rates of non-traditional tobacco use—and improve health and wellness—in First Nations and Inuit communities. This information will help other communities across Canada develop programs to reduce smoking.

These projects are part of the Government of Canada's **First Nations and Inuit Tobacco Control Strategy**. Find out more by visiting the Health Canada website at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb. Click on "Community Programs" and choose "Tobacco" from the Programs and Projects menu. Find out more about the Sliammon Smokers Clinic at: www.sliammon.com/health/tobacco.

Are you planning to stop smoking, chewing tobacco or using snuff?

For information that can help you go smoke-free, contact Health Canada:
Toll-free telephone: 1 800 O Canada (1 800 622-6232)
Website: www.GoSmokeFree.ca (click on "Aboriginal Campaign")

Fight West Nile Virus – Avoid Mosquito Bites!

West Nile virus is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. It can make you sick, and can sometimes lead to serious illness. The best way to protect yourself is to avoid mosquito bites. Use insect repellents that contain DEET or other approved ingredients, and wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing. Reduce the number of mosquitoes around your house and yard by emptying standing water from old tires, boats, and other outdoor objects where mosquitoes can breed. For more information on West Nile virus, visit www.westnilevirus.gc.ca or call toll-free 1 800 816-7292.

KIM MARTIN'S JOURNEY:

Learning to say "yes" to a better life:

The simple word "stop" changed Kim Martin's life from a roller coaster ride of failed starts to a future full of promises.

Kim grew up in the Mohawk community of **Kahnawake, Quebec**. School wasn't an important issue at home, but Kim enjoyed learning and was the first in her family to graduate from high school.

At college, Kim discovered a whole new world. She ended up in the wrong crowd, started partying, and failed her year. She did go back to school, only to quit—more than once. Her life went up and down like this for several years.

The magic moment came when she entered a nursing program that she loved. When her demons came calling again, she hesitated. But then she heard a simple, yet decisive word: "stop!"

Kim has held on to that word ever since.

She is now in her second year of nursing at John Abbot

College in Quebec, and plans to go to university for nursing or family medicine.

"It is important for Aboriginal people to know that no matter how they grew up and what they've gone through, it is possible to turn things around," says Kim.

Kim is one of 21 students chosen to receive **Canada Post's 2004 Aboriginal Education Incentive Award**. The awards celebrate First Nations, Inuit or Métis people who have overcome hardships to pursue learning. Every winner received a \$1,000 award.

You can get information and application forms for the 2005 award at the Canada Post website. Visit www.canadapost.ca, click on "In the Community" at the bottom of the page, and then "Aboriginal Education Incentive Award." The deadline for Canada Post to receive your application is **July 21, 2005**. 🌐

▼ *Kim Martin says the award from Canada Post means a lot to her after she turned her life around to study nursing.*

"It is important for Aboriginal people to know that no matter how they grew up and what they've gone through, it is possible to turn things around," says student Kim Martin.



PHOTO: IVES CLÉMENT PHOTO FEATURES

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Stay Safe!

A new booklet by Health Canada will help parents and other caregivers make their homes safer for children. It's called **Stay Safe: An Aboriginal Education Guide to Hazard Symbols**. It has activities and fact sheets to tell young children about household hazards. It also has games, pictures to colour and other fun activities. To order a free copy in English, French or Inuktitut, call Health Canada's toll-free information line, **1 866 225-0700**, and ask for the publications office.



New website lets you follow Roundtable progress

On April 19, 2004, the Government of Canada and Aboriginal leaders held a historic meeting called the **Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable**. At that meeting, they agreed to find new ways to work together to improve quality of life for Aboriginal people in Canada. Over the past year, leaders and experts from federal, provincial and territorial governments and Aboriginal organizations have continued this work. They have held a series of working groups in key areas including: health, education, lifelong learning, housing, economic opportunities, negotiations and accountability for results. You can read all about the April 19th meeting, and the results of each follow-up group, at the official Roundtable website: www.aboriginalroundtable.ca.



Investing in children and families

Tlicho land claim and self-government agreements

A dream became reality for the Tlicho people in the Northwest Territories when the **Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Act** received Royal Assent on February 15, 2005. This brings into force the first combined comprehensive land claim and self-government agreement in the Northwest Territories, and the second such agreement in Canada. Visit www.tlicho.com for more information. For more information about land claim and self-government agreements in Canada, visit this website at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/agr/index_e.html.

The youth centre at **Little Red River Cree Nation** in northern Alberta helps keep kids safe, and teaches them about healthy life choices.

"Before we had a youth centre, kids would be out on their own with nothing to do," says Patsy Johns, coordinator of the Little Red River Family Enhancement Program.

"The youth centre gives them a place to go, and it keeps them out of trouble, away from alcohol or drugs," says Patsy. "They take part in healthy activities, like learning how to cook."

All across Canada, communities support kids and families with funding from the **First Nations' National Child Benefit Reinvestment Initiative**. This initiative is a partnership between federal, provincial and territorial governments and First Nations. It aims to reduce child poverty and support parents as they move into the workforce.

Projects are unique to each community, and include hot lunch programs, summer jobs and more. Read more community success stories and check out the latest progress report on the Internet at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pe-cp/ncb_e.html.

Inuit and Northern communities take part in a similar program called the **National Child Benefit**. To find out more about programs and success stories in your region, visit the Internet at: www.nationalchildbenefit.ca.

*In 2003-2004,
the First Nations'
National Child Benefit
Reinvestment Initiative
invested in more than:*
194,430 children
93,616 families
1,123 projects
600 communities

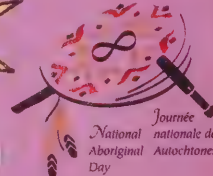


www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

Share in the CELEBRATION!



Every year on June 21, Canadians celebrate the cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.



National Aboriginal Day
Journée nationale des Autochtones

Canada

June 21 is National Aboriginal Day. For information about special events in your area and to order free products: Call toll-free: 1 800 567-9604. Visit our website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca.



update

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

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Growing healthy communities

Colin Paul loves helping out at the new community garden at Pictou Landing First Nation in Nova Scotia. This garden provides fresh vegetables for Elders and children in the community, and is tended by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Like its garden, this Mi'kmaq community is growing strong. In the past two years, they have built a gas bar that is creating jobs and income for the community. They built new housing and a water system, and are now building a band office and health centre.

Chief Ann Francis-Muise says the key to their success is good community planning. "It has helped us to better meet our current needs, and plan effectively for future growth," she says.

Developed by and for the First Nation, this plan is a roadmap for healthy community development over the next 20 years. It sets out a shared vision, with specific goals to make that vision a reality.

"Now, we are all working together to achieve a common goal," says Chief Francis-Muise. "I see positive changes in the management of Band affairs, and more community involvement in events, activities and decision-making."

Pictou Landing developed their plan using the **First Nations Community Planning Model**. This model was created by thirteen Atlantic First Nation communities, the Government of Canada and Dalhousie

Photo: Janet Francis



Eleven-year-old Colin Paul loves helping out at the community garden at Pictou Landing First Nation.

University. You can read more about this and other resources in the story "Tools for community planning" on page 2. ■

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Housing solutions you can use



You can take a tour, get training or order a free book to learn more about these new homes built by Seabird Island First Nation.

New homes at Seabird Island First Nation in British Columbia will provide healthy, affordable housing for generations to come.

They also offer good housing ideas to First Nation and Inuit communities across Canada.

Seabird Island used their own housing crew to build the homes. This created jobs, training and new skills for community members. They used building materials that will resist mould and last for the next 100 years. They also used sources of renewable energy—the earth, wind and sun—to give heat and power to the homes. That means 50-75% savings on energy costs, and better air quality.

The community is a member of the Stó:lō Nation, and the homes reflect their culture and traditions. For example, they are built around a healing herb garden and locally carved totem poles.

"This project has given us a unique opportunity to incorporate our traditions, but in a modern way to meet our housing needs," explains Band Council member Marcie Peters.

Seabird Island First Nation, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and more than 20 businesses worked together to make this project a success.

Find out more about Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's **Non-Profit On-Reserve Housing Program** by calling toll-free 1 800-668-2642. Or, visit the Internet at www.cmhc.ca. Go to "Shortcuts for..." on the left of your screen and click on "Aboriginal."

Find out about housing programs at **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada** on the Internet at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca. Click on "Programs and Services" and then "Infrastructure and Housing." ■



Your next step

Your community can take home ideas from the Seabird Island project.

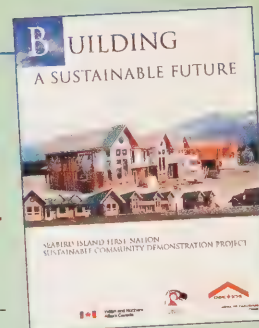
Here's how:

Order the Seabird Island tour booklet, *Building a Sustainable Future*.

You can get a free copy by calling toll-free 1 800-668-2642 or visiting our website at www.cmhc.ca. Go to "In your region" at the top of the page, and choose "B.C. and Yukon" from the menu. Then click on the link to the Seabird Island story.

Take a tour. To register for a free tour of the project call toll-free 1 800-668-2642.

Arrange a workshop in your community. Find out about a free, one-day workshop for housing and construction managers, community planners and others who are interested in this project. Call (613) 748-2592 or send an e-mail to acroteau@cmhc-schl.gc.ca.



Tools for community planning

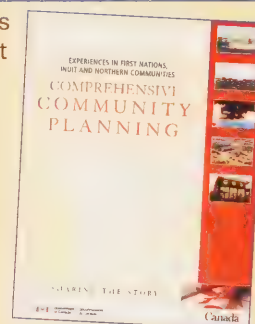
Through planning, communities can create a shared vision that leads to better quality of life. Check out these tools designed to support the growth of healthy First Nation and Inuit communities:

Read *Sharing the Story: Experiences in First Nations, Inuit and Northern Comprehensive Community Planning*.

This book profiles more than 17 First Nation and Inuit communities. You can order a free copy by calling toll-free 1 800-567-9604, or read it on the Internet at www.pwgsc.gc.ca/rps/inac/content/docs_governance-e.html.

Join the new Internet chat room for communities by communities. You can share community planning experiences, good ideas and resources at a new online discussion group. To request membership in the group, go to http://inac-collaboration.pwgsc.gc.ca/ev_en.php and click on "Request Account."

Learn more about the First Nations Community Planning Model. You can read more about the project—and order a copy of this and other planning tools for a small fee—at the Dalhousie University website. Go to www.dal.ca/~ceunit/fncp.html and click on "publications."



Building a safer community

Elders and police on the Blood Reserve in Alberta are working together to help build a safer community.

"Personally, in 33 years of policing, I think it is the best thing we have ever done," says Chief of Police Alf Rudd.

The Blood Tribe Police started working with a team of Elders in March 2004. The Elders serve as uniformed "Aisiimohki," or "peacekeeper" officers. Their goal is to prevent crime in a way that preserves traditional Blackfoot values and customs.

The Elders teach the police about the Blackfoot culture, religion and language, and help them respond to some calls in the community. They also counsel those affected by crime—both the accused and the victim. They visit schools to talk to students about substance abuse and participate in youth crime prevention projects.

The Elders bring their wisdom, life skills and knowledge to the job.

"I worked as a counselor in a correctional centre for 13 years. I'm excited to bring my experience to the job," says Elder Eagle Bear.

And they say it's the best job they've ever had.

"Inside my soul it feels good because we are helping our people," says Elder Eagle Child.

This project is funded by **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada's First Nations Crime Prevention Fund**. Read about more projects on the Internet at www.psepc.gc.ca/abor_policing/crim_pre_initiatives_e.asp. ■



Peacekeeper officers Elders Eagle Child and Eagle Bear in front of Chief Mountain in Alberta.

New governance website

What's new in governance? Find out at a new website that tells you how Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is working with First Nations to improve governance in your communities. You'll also find information on governance pilot projects, photographs and background information. Check it out on the Internet at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/lts/fng/index_e.html.

Funding for infrastructure projects

Infrastructure Canada is a Government of Canada department that works to improve the quality of life in rural and urban communities across Canada. That means helping to put into place the basic building blocks of healthy, sustainable communities, like safe roads and drinking water. First Nations communities are partners in this program, and can apply for project funding. Find out more at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/hsg/cih/ci/ic/index_e.html.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

"I am very excited and happy to see my brothers and sisters succeeding and sharing their stories. Thank you!"

VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Thanks to all of you who send us comments. Fill out the reply card and mail yours in today! Postage is paid. Want to see a story covered?

Let us know—your ideas matter!

The Editor

Update is sent to First Nation and Inuit communities across Canada. It costs about 20 cents a copy to produce and mail.

We would like to receive your comments and suggestions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Did you find this issue informative? ☐ yes ☐ no

What other important topics would you like to see covered in future issues?

Comments: _____

☐ Send Government of Canada information to my e-mail: _____

☐ Send *Update* to my friend at this address: _____

☐ It's okay to use my name and address for other government updates.

I would like to be kept informed on Government of Canada initiatives by:

☐ community television ☐ mail to my home ☐ band office

☐ community radio ☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper ☐ friendship centre

Agreements open doors to prosperity

In November, the members of Kwanlin Dün First Nation voted to accept land claim and self-government agreements that were negotiated with the Government of Canada and Government of Yukon.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation is the largest urban First Nation in the Yukon. Under the agreements, the community will receive about 1,040 square kilometres of settlement land and \$29.19 million in financial compensation. They will also receive a one-time payment of \$5.6 million for economic development, training and education projects.

These agreements give Kwanlin Dün new law-making authority and better tools to manage and protect its land and resources, preserve and enrich its culture and way of life, and enhance the economic growth and well-being of its community.

The First Nation is planning a signing ceremony with the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon early in 2005.

For more information, check out this website at: www.kwanlindun.com.



Under new agreements, Kwanlin Dün First Nation will own parcels of land in downtown Whitehorse along the banks of the Yukon River.

Building a strategy for the North

In December 14, 2004, the Government of Canada and the governments of Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut announced that they will be working together to develop the first government-wide strategy for the North.

The Northern Strategy will help guide all four governments to achieve real, positive change for Northerners today and in the future. The strategy will be developed with Aboriginal governments, organizations and Northern residents.

You can learn more about the **Northern Strategy** on the Internet at www.northernstrategy.ca. It includes information in English, French and Inuktitut.



Do you live in the city? This website is for you!

Find information about programs and services in your city at the **Aboriginal Canada Portal**. Their new urban and rural information section has links to programs and services for health, social services, culture, housing and Friendship Centres in cities across Canada.

The Aboriginal Canada Portal gives you one-stop access to information for and about Aboriginal people in Canada. It's also a unique partnership between National Aboriginal organizations and the Government of Canada. Visit us on the Internet at www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca, and click on "Urban and Rural Information."



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Complete the reply card, clip it out and send it in (postage is already paid) or call INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre at **1 800 567-9604** or TTY/TDD: **1 866 553-0554**. You can also send us a fax at **(819) 953-2305**, or send us an e-mail message at Update@inac.gc.ca.

For information on Government of Canada programs and services, call toll-free **1 800 O-Canada** (**1 800 622-6232**); TTY/TDD at **1 800 465-7735**, or visit www.canada.gc.ca on the Internet.

You can also read **Update** at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html.

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www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

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THE EDITOR UPDATE
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Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

update

WINTER 2004

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

Women reaching dreams

Life goes fast," says Anne Huntinghawk. "You may as well do what you want—and education is the key."

Anne is an Ojibway woman, born 45 years ago in Manitoba. Life has been hard for her—she was born to residential school survivors. They had many troubles. Anne was taken from her family at age eight. She went to live with a non-Aboriginal foster family.

"I didn't feel like I fit into school or belonged anywhere," Anne says. She dropped out by age 16.

After leaving school, she raised her four children as a single mother by working nights as a Psychiatric Nursing Assistant. She has worked at this job for over 20 years, where she helps people with mental disabilities.

Two of her children have gone to university and now she is following them. Anne returned to high school in 2001.

"When I first went back to school, I thought, 'What am I doing here?'" Anne soon started to feel good about being there. She graduated at the top of her class—while working full-time night shifts.

Today Anne attends the University of Manitoba, taking courses by satellite television. She still works at night. She hopes to help other Aboriginal people. "I know I can do it," she says.

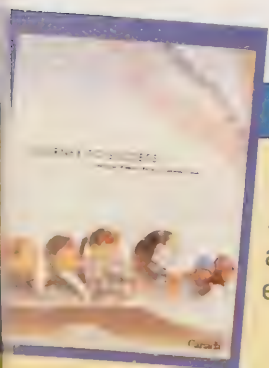


Anne Huntinghawk says education is key to making dreams happen.

Anne has accessed the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, an Indian and Northern Affairs Canada program that helps cover some of the costs of going to school. For more information on this program, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/edu/ense_e.html on the Internet or call toll-free 1 800 567-9604. ■

Aboriginal Women's Business Planning Guide

Journey to Success is a guide for Aboriginal women who are thinking of going into business. Aboriginal women across the country helped make the guide practical and easy-to-use. For a free copy, call toll-free 1 800 567-9604.



Canada

Setting up business



Linda Sunday says the freedom to develop your own ideas is the best part of being in business.

Linda Sunday, a Mohawk from Akwesasne, opened an office supply store in her community. Here's what she said about running a business.

How did you get started?

"I learned most about the industry working in my parents' store. By 1999 I was running the store myself."

Where is a good place to get information on starting a business?

"The National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association and Aboriginal Business Canada have useful information for Aboriginal entrepreneurs. It's also a good idea to research other businesses in your field and the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Businesses, a program launched to increase the number of Aboriginal firms doing business with government."

How do you keep up with business trends?

"I network with other businesses, read business magazines and industry news. It also helps to keep tabs on Internet sites such as Industry Canada and the Retail Council of Canada."

What advice would you give someone starting a business?

"Ask for advice when you need it. There are a lot of people in business more than willing to help."

Lissa Marie Charron from Sheshegwaning First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, is co-owner of a business offering oxygen therapy in Toronto. It was the world's first oxygen spa bar.

How did you get started?

"When my partner and I started, we had passion but no expertise. So we met with experts and started picking their brains. It took us four years to open the doors of our spa."

What are the keys to success?

"Manage your stress and prioritize your tasks. The key thing is to know you can't do everything yourself and that you're not great at everything. Ask for help when you need it. Finally, whatever you're doing, find a way to make it unique; put your stamp on it."

What resources did you use to get started?

"Aboriginal Business Canada was incredibly enthusiastic about our business from the very beginning. They saw that there was potential for growth, and supported us when we were getting on our feet."

Any tips for someone thinking of opening a business?

"Because you can never really turn off your computer and walk away, you have to love what you do. It can't just be about money."

Resources

Aboriginal Business Service Network
www.cbsc.org/absn

Aboriginal Business Canada
www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca

Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business
<http://saea-psab.ainc-inac.gc.ca> ■

Concerns or questions about your local government?

If you live in a First Nation or Inuit community and have a complaint about how your local government works, we're here to listen—and help, if we can. The National Complaints and Allegations Coordinator will also listen to your concerns about organizations funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or email **CNAP-NACC@ainc-inac.gc.ca**.

Women in business

There are Aboriginal women who have made their dream of starting a business a reality. You can read about these entrepreneurs on the Aboriginal Economic Development Success Story Database, at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/ecd/wen_e.html on the Internet.



Kids are the future. That's why the Government of Canada is spending \$320 million over five years in First Nation and Inuit communities. The Federal Strategy on Early Childhood Development for First Nations and Other Aboriginal Children is making progress.

An example is more funding for Aboriginal Head Start. This program helps kids learn to read, eat healthily, and speak their traditional Aboriginal languages. Head Start is using the extra money to make room for more children and to develop learning materials.

New funds are also helping the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Program to improve some of its child care centres and create spaces for more children. This means more parents can go back to school or take job training.

Health Canada is providing money for communities to run programs to prevent disabilities caused by mothers drinking while pregnant. Information on the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program will be posted on the Internet soon at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca.

Through this strategy, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, and Health Canada are working together to deliver services to your communities.

To find out more about services for children, call **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**. If you use a TTY call **1 800 465-7735**. ■



Children can reach higher with programs that help them grow.

New Child Disability Benefit

Beginning in March 2004, the government will give more money to families caring for children with disabilities. The Child Disability Benefit will be paid with the Canada Child Tax Benefit. To learn more and to see if you qualify, go to www.ccr.gc.ca/cdb on the Internet or call toll-free **1 800 389-1193**.

Information on clean water

The First Nations Water Management Strategy was announced in Spring 2003. It is a plan to improve water and wastewater systems on reserves across Canada. There is information coming to your community about what is happening where you live. The band council in your community has also received an orientation toolkit explaining the strategy. To find out more, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** and ask about news on water quality issues.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

"I particularly enjoyed being able to request documents from the information in your pieces. Thank you!"

Thanks to all of you who send us comments. Fill out the reply card and mail yours in today! Postage is paid. Want to see a story covered?

Let us know—your ideas matter!

The Editor

Update is sent to the homes of First Nation people on reserves across Canada. It costs about 20 cents a copy to produce and mail.

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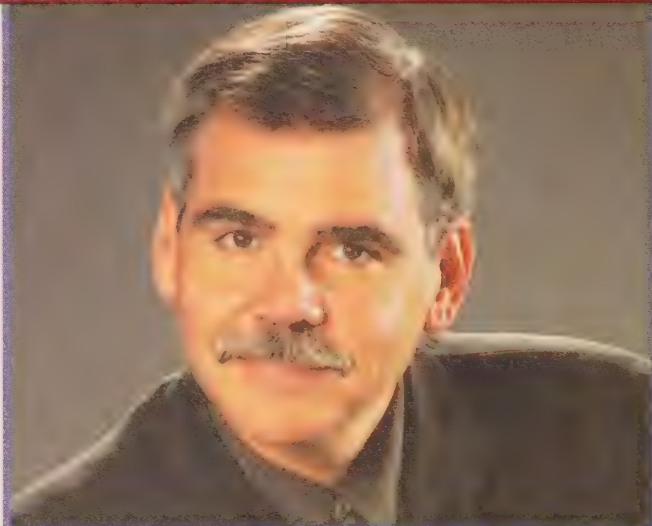
I would like to be kept informed on Government of Canada initiatives by:

☐ community television ☐ mail to my home ☐ band office

☐ community radio ☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper ☐ friendship centre

Meet the new Minister!



The Honourable Andy Mitchell

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has a new Minister!

The Honourable Andy Mitchell is a Member of Parliament from Parry Sound-Muskoka in Ontario. He was named Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on December 12, 2003.

Minister Mitchell's last job was as Secretary of State for Rural Development and the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario. This work took him to many First Nations communities across Canada.

Minister Mitchell is focused on working together with First Nations people, Inuit and Northerners. ■

Matrimonial real property study

The Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights has been studying how matrimonial real property (things like houses and land) is divided after a couple living on a reserve splits up. The committee heard from witnesses during the Fall of 2003 and has prepared a report, *A Hard Bed to Lie In: Matrimonial Real Property on Reserve*, with some recommendations to deal with the issue. To learn more about on-reserve matrimonial real property and the committee, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/wige/mrp/index_e.html on the Internet. ■

New law for claims

The Government of Canada passed a law to create the Canadian Centre for the Independent Resolution of First Nations Specific Claims. The centre will help negotiate settlements and resolve disputes between First Nations and the Government of Canada through an independent tribunal. To learn about "the new law", call toll-free at 1 800 567-9604 or read about it on the Internet at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/clm/scbul_e.html

Flu season is here — remember to:

■ Get the flu shot ■ Wash your hands with soap and water ■ Stay home when sick
For more information, visit www.healthcanada.ca/flu or call 1 800 454-8302.



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For information on Government of Canada programs and services, call toll-free 1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232); TTY/TDD at 1-800-465-7735; or visit www.canada.gc.ca.

You can also read the *Update* at www.inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html.

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www.inac.gc.ca

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update

FALL 2004

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

Connecting to a world of learning

Thirteen-year-old Thomas McKendle knows what it means to be connected.

Using the Internet, he can take extra classes to finish high school and prepare for college or university. He can even share his Cree culture with students across Canada and around the world.

And, he can do all this without leaving his small community in northern Saskatchewan.

"We've got the technology. We're connected to the world," says Thomas.

Across Canada, First Nations schools are using computers and the Internet to break down barriers to education. They offer online learning and teach computer skills that will help students get ahead at school and in future careers. They also use video conferencing to connect and work with other schools.

To offer these programs, First Nations schools need Internet access, equipment and training. They get a lot of this help from First Nations SchoolNet. This program is funded by Industry Canada and delivered directly to schools by six First Nations organizations across Canada.

In Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Keewatin Career Development Corporation provides this service to schools. Their manager, Randy Johns, sees first-hand how this technology helps First Nations students, schools and communities.

"Distance learning helps give people in these small, remote communities the same



Using computers, First Nations students can connect to many more ways to learn—without leaving home.

kind of chances that a person in the city might have," says Randy.

Find out more about First Nations SchoolNet and the First Nations organizations that deliver the program by calling 1 800 575-9200 or visiting us on the Internet:

Industry Canada: www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal

Atlantic: www.firstnationhelp.com

Quebec: www.cepn-fmec.com

Ontario: www.knet.ca

Manitoba: www.mfns.ca

Saskatchewan and Alberta: www.firstnationsnt.ca

British Columbia: www.fnesc.ca ■

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- ♦ Science camp page 3
- ♦ Health care gets a boost page 4

Canada

Study what you love



Journalism student Katryna Smith is getting the education she needs to do the job she loves.

Journalism student Katryna Smith is getting the education she needs to do the job she loves.

"I want to complete my journalism degree and work as an overseas correspondent," says Katryna.

Katryna, 31, is a Cree from Onion Lake First Nation, on the border of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

This summer she got hands-on experience working in television and radio. Now she's back at school studying pre-journalism at the University of Regina. She's also in the Indian Communications Arts program at the First Nations University of Canada.

She is overcoming the challenges of living far from home—and a hearing impairment—by building a strong support system at school.

"At the First Nations university, they create a community within each class. You get to know your classmates well," says Katryna.

Her advice to others?

"Let your professors know if you have a disability. Don't be shy to ask questions. Other people may want to know about the same thing," says Katryna. "Most importantly, pick a profession you love."

Katryna receives funding from the **Post-Secondary Student Support Program**. This Indian and Northern Affairs Canada program helps First Nations and Inuit students with the cost of tuition fees, books, travel and living allowances. Contact your Band Office for more information. You can also call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or visit our website at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/edu/ense_e.html.

Visit the **First Nations University of Canada** on the Internet at: www.firstnationsuniversity.ca. ■

Planning for success

Finding Your Path: A Guide to Career and Education Planning helps students and parents develop a school budget, think about career options, and more. It is designed for Aboriginal students living in British Columbia, but it's a great tool for any student. You can find it on the Internet at: www.fnesc.ca, then click on "Publications" and scroll down the list to "Finding Your Path."

This guide is just one of many tools developed by the **First Nations Education Steering Committee**. Run by First Nations communities, this non-profit organization works towards quality education for First Nations students in British Columbia. They offer programs and information to First Nations schools and communities. They also give information about government-funded education programs—and make people aware of important education issues. Visit their website for more information at www.fnesc.ca or call (604) 925-6087. ■

Students! Looking for post-secondary funding?

Check out these websites:

Aboriginal Bursaries System: <http://sdiprod1.inac.gc.ca/abs>

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation: www.naaf.ca

CanLearn Interactive: www.canlearn.ca

Community projects support parents

Making stronger links between home and school—that's the goal of more than twenty pilot projects developed by First Nations organizations across Canada. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is funding these projects with a two-year program called the Parental and Community Engagement Strategy. From publications to workshops, all the projects have been designed to give parents the information and support they need to get involved in their child's education.

In Nova Scotia, for example, the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey—an education group that serves nine communities in Nova Scotia—developed a guide for parents of Mi'kmaw children. Written in Mi'kmaw and English, *Wi'katikn Wjit Knki'kuk-Handbook for parents* is available on the Internet at <http://kinu.ns.ca> under "Resource Downloads."

For more information about the **Parental and Community Engagement Strategy** call toll-free **1 800 567-9604**. ■

Summer camp inspired 55 First Nations and Inuit youth to dream about a career in science and technology.

"I want to work as a scientist in the woods and in labs in the far North," says Andrew Gros-Louis Germain, 13, of Huron Wendat First Nation in Quebec. "It's one of my dreams. I will do it."

Andrew is one of the budding scientists who went to the **First Nations and Inuit National Science Camp**. With activities from hands-on experiments to whale watching, science camp took them on a week-long adventure through the province of Manitoba in June.

Youth aged 12-16 were chosen to take part from every region in Canada.

"I liked meeting new people, hearing about their culture and language," says Kayylynn Kusugak, 16, from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. "I really enjoy science. When I get older I want to be a forensic scientist."

This was the third national science camp. It was hosted by the Black River First Nation and funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's **First Nations and Inuit Science and Technology Program**.

First Nation and Inuit communities and organizations can apply to have science programs funded in their area. To find out more, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ys/youth2_e.html on the Internet. ■



Augustine Sundown, 16, does hands-on learning during the 2004 First Nations and Inuit National Science Camp in Manitoba. She is from Big Island Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan.

Learning is fun at Kids' Stop

Kids' Stop is a website that has learning materials for kids, parents and teachers. You will find information you can use to teach about Aboriginal languages, histories and peoples. And it has fun games for kids too! Check it out on the Internet at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca and click on "Kids' Stop." ■



Keep those cards and letters coming!

"Information galore!
Keep it up please."

IQALUIT, NUNAVUT

Thanks to all of you who send us comments. Fill out the reply card and mail yours in today! Postage is paid. Want to see a story covered?

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☐ band office

community radio

☐ Internet

community newspaper

☐ friendship centre

Meet the new Ministers!

The Honourable Andy Scott is the new Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development. He is also the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. Mr. Scott is Member of Parliament for Fredericton, New Brunswick. He was first elected in 1993, and his last position was Minister of State for Infrastructure. Working together with Aboriginal people is a priority for the Minister. This fall, he took a five-week tour across Canada to meet directly with Aboriginal leaders and communities.



*The Honourable
Andy Scott*

The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew is the new Minister of State for Northern Development. Ms. Blondin-Andrew is Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic riding in the Northwest Territories. First elected in 1988, she most recently was Minister of State for Children and Youth. She has also worked as an Aboriginal language and course content specialist, a college instructor and a national manager of indigenous development programs. She is a Treaty Dene from the Dene Nation.

Photo: Jean-Marc Carisse



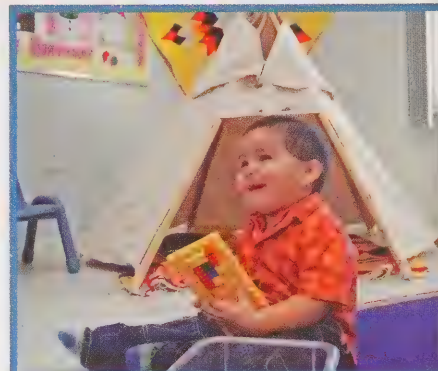
*The Honourable
Ethel Blondin-Andrew*

Find out more by visiting our website at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca and clicking on "Meet the Minister." ■

New investments in Aboriginal health care

On September 13, 2004, the Government of Canada committed \$700 million to address Aboriginal health needs. Over the next five years, this money will be used to:

- adapt health services to better meet the needs of Aboriginal people
- increase the number of Aboriginal health professionals
- hire, educate and keep more health professionals working in Aboriginal communities
- support health promotion and disease prevention programs, including programs to prevent suicide and diabetes and promote mother and child health
- increase funding to First Nations and Inuit health services



Health programs for Aboriginal children are getting a boost thanks to new federal funding announced September 13.

This announcement was made at a meeting of the Prime Minister, Premiers and Aboriginal leaders in Ottawa. They also agreed to work together to develop an action plan to improve Aboriginal health and health services. For more information, visit www.pm.gc.ca/eng on the Internet and click on "First Ministers' Meeting," then "News Releases" and "Improving Aboriginal Health." ■



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update

JULY 2004

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

Training for success

Corey Desjarlais is proud of his work as a water treatment plant operator. "Keeping everyone safe—that's my job," he says.

This twenty-six-year-old works at the new Three Nations Water Treatment Plant in Grassy Plains, British Columbia. It was built by three First Nations: Cheslatta, Nee Tahi Buhn and Skin Tyee.

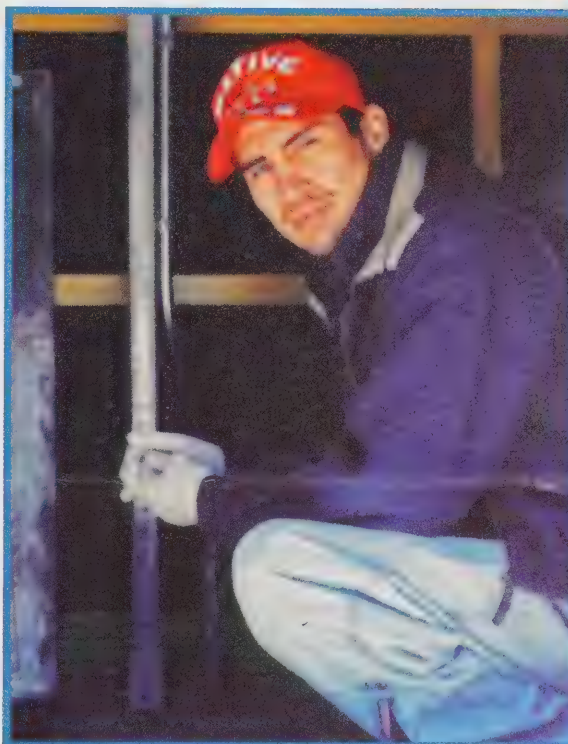
At the plant, Corey helps test and treat water that is sent to more than 50 homes, a school and a clinic. This makes sure the water people drink is safe and clean.

To get the job, Corey took a one-year water operator training program. He scored over 90 percent in his course work and got hands-on experience helping build the water treatment plant. He has worked there since it opened in February 2003.

The Government of Canada gives funding to First Nations communities to build and improve water treatment plants—and to train and certify First Nations people to operate these plants. This is part of a five-year plan to help First Nations supply safe, clean water in their communities.

Water operator training is available to First Nations people across Canada. It is offered by many different organizations, like tribal councils, provincial associations and community colleges.

Today, more than 1,000 First Nations people are working as water operators on reserves across Canada.



Corey Desjarlais works to keep water safe in his community.

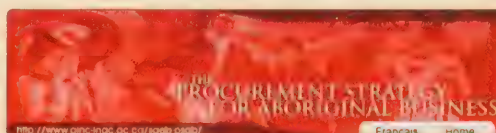
Corey feels this is a career other people should think about too. "There are many opportunities in water management. This definitely the job of the future," he says.

To learn more about water operator training and certification, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or visit the Internet at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/h2o, and click on "Operator and Training Certification." ■



Doing business with the Government of Canada

A new training tool for Aboriginal businesses is now on the Internet. It gives information about how to find and bid on federal government contracts with the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business. Visit our website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/saea-psab and click on "web-based guide to doing business with the federal government." Order a free information kit by calling toll-free **1 800 400-7677**.



Canada

Building better homes and jobs



This is a super energy-efficient, affordable and award-winning Mohawk home.

The Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte in Ontario are leaders in Canada's housing industry.

That's because they build some of the most energy-efficient and affordable homes in Canada.

These are well-built homes that use less energy and have better air quality. The results are 30 percent lower utility bills, and healthy, affordable housing for hundreds of people in this Mohawk community.

"The people who live in these houses appreciate having much healthier, comfortable homes with largely reduced utility bills," says Mohawk housing director Chris Maracle.

The homes are all designed, built and kept up by the Mohawk housing department. This has created jobs and training for at least 20 Mohawk builders, carpenters, painters and electricians. The entire crew is trained to build R-2000 homes—the most energy-efficient homes in Canada.

They have won many awards, including Canada's only national energy efficiency award for housing in 2003. Canada's Energy Efficiency Awards are given out every year to celebrate Canadian successes in improving energy efficiency and the environment.

Read about **Canada's Energy Efficiency Awards** at www.energyawards.nrcan.gc.ca. Or call toll-free 1 866 333-3970.

Find out about **R-2000** and **EnerGuide training** on the Internet at www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca, or call toll-free 1 800 387-2000. Natural Resources Canada offers this training to First Nations, Inuit and Northern communities across Canada. ■

Creating jobs for youth

First Nations and Inuit communities and organizations can apply for funding to create jobs for Aboriginal youth through the **First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy**. To find out more, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/jeunesse-youth on the Internet. You can also call toll-free 1 800 567-9604.

Insulation warning

The Government of Canada wants you to know that a specific type of vermiculite insulation made before 1990 may contain asbestos. There is little risk to health if the insulation is sealed behind walls and in attics, and if you do not touch or move it. Disturbing the insulation may release asbestos fibres into the air and can pose a health risk if you breathe the fibres.

If you think you have vermiculite insulation in your home do not move or touch it. If you have concerns, you can find out what to do by calling toll-free 1 800 443-0395, contacting your community health centre or nursing station, or visiting Health Canada's website at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/insulation.



Vermiculite insulation should not be moved or touched.

Photo: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Jobs for students

Student employment with the Government of Canada can give you the money you need to stay in school and the skills you need to get a full-time job.

This was Dena Buckshot's experience. As a student, she had a regular summer job working at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in Gatineau, Quebec.

"It gave me a good job, and new experience working in an office environment," says Dena, who is a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation in Quebec.



Dena Buckshot

Today, Dena has a university degree and a full-time job as a Human Resources Advisor in the federal government.

You can apply online for government jobs at www.jobs.gc.ca on the Internet. Check out the **Federal Student Work Employment Program** and the **Post-Secondary Recruitment Program** (and read about the **Aboriginal University Recruitment Inventory**). You can also call toll-free 1 800 935-5555 to get information about jobs and training for youth.

Job websites:

www.jobs.gc.ca • www.skillnet.ca • www.youth.gc.ca

Training for the fishing business

First Nations people on Canada's east coast are learning new skills and getting jobs in the commercial fishing business.

In 1999, Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities in the Maritimes and the Gaspé region of Quebec got a bigger role in the East Coast fishery. That was because of the Supreme Court of Canada's *Marshall* decision. This decision gave them access to fishing licences, boats, gear and training.

This decision has led to more than 1,200 First Nations people getting new jobs in the east coast fishery. Also, more than 2,000 people have been trained to work in the business through Government of Canada programs.

To build on this success, the federal government recently started two new training programs. The **At-Sea Mentoring Program** gives First Nations people hands-on experience working on fishing boats. Trainees learn from people who know the fishing business. The **Fisheries Operations Management Program** teaches First Nations people how to run a fishing business.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has put \$7 million into the two programs. They are working with First Nations to set up the programs in more than 30 communities.

For more information about training opportunities in your area, visit your band office. To learn more about these new programs, visit www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca on the Internet. ■



Shannon Paul gets hands-on training in the east coast fishing business from mentor Stanley Paul.

West Nile virus: Protect yourself this summer

How can you lower your risk of getting West Nile virus? Try not to get bitten by a mosquito! Wear light-coloured clothing so you don't attract mosquitoes. Use bug spray with DEET or other approved ingredients and carefully follow directions on the label. Try not to spend too much time outside at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes like to bite. Be sure to wear long sleeves and pants if you are going to places with lots of mosquitoes. Repair holes in screens on doors and in windows. For more information, call toll-free **1 800 816-7292** or visit Health Canada's website at www.westnilevirus.gc.ca.



Keep those cards and letters coming!

"Very informative. Awesome to read about our people succeeding!"

VANDERHOOF, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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☐ mail to my home

☐ band office

☐ community radio

☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper

☐ friendship centre

Partnerships at work

Employers, Aboriginal communities and the Government of Canada are working together to create jobs for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

This is thanks to the **Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative**, known as AWPI. This federal government program connects employers with local Aboriginal communities to figure out and fill employment needs. They also help employers create a workplace that embraces Aboriginal culture and values.

The result? Employers have more qualified staff to choose from, and Aboriginal people have better chances of getting meaningful jobs. And because AWPI helps employers lower the barriers to Aboriginal people on the job, they will also work in a more positive work environment.

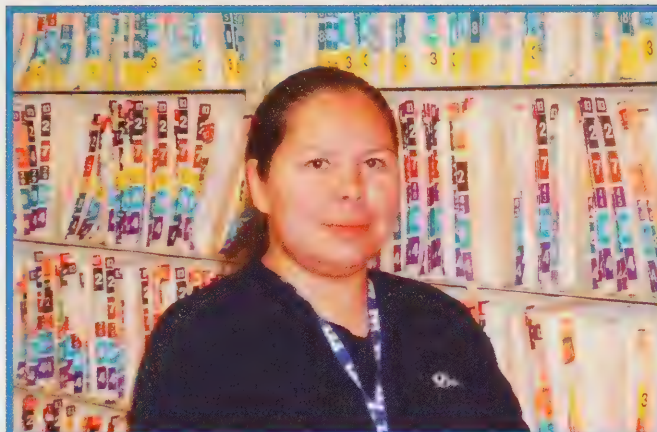
"It's about real jobs and pay cheques for real people," says National Director Rick Hansen.

Hansen has seen the positive results. In Manitoba, 30 Aboriginal people were hired when AWPI helped an employer, the Brandon Regional Health Authority, connect with 18 Aboriginal communities and organizations.

And more good news is on the way. For example, AWPI brought together:

- Michelin North America (Canada) Inc. and Aboriginal communities to create jobs in Nova Scotia.
- the Government of Alberta and businesses to find possible jobs for Aboriginal people across the province.

Find out more by visiting the Internet at www.awpi.gc.ca. Employers and Aboriginal communities or associations can contact AWPI by calling **1 819 994-5924** for more information. ■



Donna Catcheway works in health records at the Brandon Regional Health Authority in Manitoba. Working in partnership with First Nations communities, as well as schools, unions and government, the health authority has hired more than 30 qualified Aboriginal people like Donna.

Celebrating National Aboriginal Day!

A jingle dancer from Kehewin dance troupe, Alberta, performs at a National Aboriginal Day celebration on June 21, 2004 at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec. National Aboriginal Day events are held every year across Canada to celebrate the cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada. Find out more on our website at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nad/ or call **1 800 567-9604**.



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APRIL 2004

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from the Government of Canada

Doing business with pride

Lisa Meeches says being true to her Aboriginal roots and spiritual beliefs gives her the strength to do well in business.

"Don't compromise who you are spiritually as a First Nations person," says Lisa, who is Ojibway and grew up in Long Plains First Nation in Manitoba. "Whether you're a secretary or a lawyer, the way to success is with pride."

Lisa is living proof of this. She is a television host, executive producer and president of two production companies—Meeches Video Productions and Eagle Vision—in Winnipeg. Both companies have about 100 employees, and give jobs and training to Aboriginal people.

These companies produce television shows like *The Sharing Circle* (which Lisa co-hosts) and *Tipi Tales*, which are shown on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

"The lessons taught through these programs transcend race and culture, and provide basic truths to living a good life," says Lisa.

Lisa started her career in 1986 as a writer and reporter for the Native Media Network in Winnipeg. She has a degree in broadcast arts and a diploma in business administration.

Lisa's production business grew recently with money from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Economic Development Opportunity Fund. They are working on new television shows about health and wellness, Aboriginal legends and other subjects.



Lisa Meeches makes television shows that tell Aboriginal stories.

To find out more about the **Economic Development Opportunity Fund**, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ecd/pas_e.html on the Internet and click on "Equity Programs." You can also call toll-free **1 800 567-9604**. The fund helps First Nations people start, grow or buy a business. ■



Show off your business to the world!

Canada's Virtual Aboriginal Trade Show is a website that shows Aboriginal businesses to the world. Register your business online at: www.vats.ca on the Internet.

Canada

Growing a green economy



Steve Ginnish is helping bring the forest and the economy back to life at Eel Ground First Nation, New Brunswick.

The forest on Eel Ground First Nation in New Brunswick was once hurt by heavy cutting. Now, it has been brought back to life.

This is thanks to the community's plan to keep the forest—and the economy—growing for future generations.

"The forest was hurting from 40 years of uncontrolled harvesting. There was no management of the land," says Steve Ginnish. Steve, who is Mi'kmaq, is the First Nation's forestry development officer.

"In 1989, we developed a sustainable forestry plan that addresses the holistic needs of the community, and protects and cultivates all of its natural resources, from fishing to water, wildlife to medicinal plants," says Steve.

Today, forestry in Eel Ground brings in about \$2.7 million a year and creates 85 jobs during the busy season. The program has also won environmental and business awards.

The plan was put into action with help from the First Nations Forestry Program. The program is run by Natural Resources Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

"The program was our seed source. It opened the door to funds, partnerships, networks and new business ventures," says Steve.

To read more about the **First Nations Forestry Program**, call toll-free **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232), e-mail info@fnfp.gc.ca or visit www.fnfp.gc.ca. ■

Support for Aboriginal business

In Canada today, there are more than 27,000 Aboriginal businesses. The Government of Canada offers funding and other tools to support Aboriginal businesses and community projects, large and small. Find out more by calling toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or visiting www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ecd/index_e.html on the Internet.

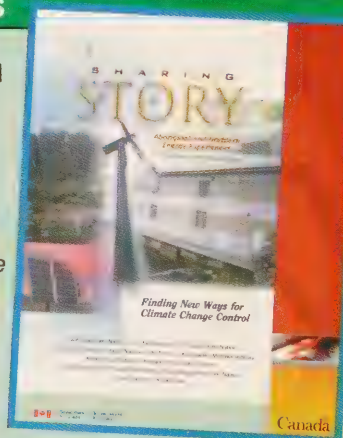
Aboriginal forestry conference

The National Conference on Aboriginal Forestry will bring together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal forest managers, decision-makers, academics and students for presentations, workshops and field trips. It runs from May 11-13, 2004, in Thunder Bay, Ontario. For more information, visit www.aboriginalforestry.org on the Internet or call toll-free **1 800 868-8776**.



Sharing stories of energy smart communities

Learn how Aboriginal and Northern communities across Canada have improved their energy efficiency in a new Government of Canada booklet called *Sharing the Story—Aboriginal and Northern Energy Experiences*. You can read it on the Internet at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/clc. Or, to order a copy, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604**.



Tax information for you

To find tax information for Aboriginal people, visit this new Government of Canada website at: www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca/aboriginals/menu-e.html.

Cruising to success

The Campbell River Indian Band in British Columbia has a new tourism plan to bring cruise ships—and thousands of tourists—to the region.

The First Nation is on the East coast of Vancouver Island. It is making the current dock bigger and better to handle large cruise ships and their passengers.

"We initiated the project in 1999 as an alternative to the region's flagging resource-based industry," says Robert Duncan, the economic development officer who got the project off the ground. "The vision was there—we had to make it work."

To make this vision a reality, they are working with the District of Campbell River and the local tourism group. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Regional Partnerships Fund and Western Economic Diversification Canada have put money into the project.

When it is finished in 2004, the Campbell River Port of Call will bring in close to 40,000 cruise passengers every year, create about 150 full-time jobs and make \$8.5 million a year that will help the whole region.

To find out more about the **Regional Partnerships Fund**, visit http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ecd/pas_e.html on the Internet or call toll-free 1 800 567-9604. To read about **Western Economic Diversification Canada**, visit their website at www.wd.gc.ca. ■



Cruise ships will soon dock at Campbell River, British Columbia.



Water—Source for Life

Visit INAC's new website on water. It will tell you about the First Nations Water Management Strategy and what is being done to keep your water clean. Visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/H2O on the Internet or call 1 800 567-9604 for more information.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

"Great issue, full of encouraging information and great pictures!"

WHITE RIVER FIRST NATION, BEAVER CREEK, YUKON

Thanks to all of you who send us comments. Fill out the reply card and mail yours in today! Postage is paid. Want to see a story covered?

Let us know—your ideas matter!

The Editor

Update is sent to the homes of First Nation people on reserves across Canada. It costs about 20 cents a copy to produce and mail.

We would like to receive your comments and suggestions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Did you find this issue informative? ☐ yes ☐ no

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☐ community radio ☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper ☐ friendship centre

Partners in opportunity

On February 2, 2004, the Government of Canada promised to work with others to improve the quality of life for all Aboriginal people. In the Speech from the Throne, the government said it will:

- increase opportunities to get more education and build new skills. It will work with provinces, territories and Aboriginal groups on a renewed **Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy**;
- work with First Nations to make their governments more effective and more answerable to the people. Together, we will set up an independent **Centre for First Nations Government**;
- make sure that First Nations communities have **safe drinking water**;
- help Aboriginal people in cities by building on the **Urban Aboriginal Strategy** with willing provinces and municipalities; and
- bring **Métis** leaders and other people from government together to talk about the place of the Métis in federal policies.

There are many more things that concern Aboriginal people in the **Speech from the Throne**. You can read the whole speech at www.sft-ddt.gc.ca on the Internet. Or, call toll-free **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232) to have a copy mailed to you. ■



Nunavut is five years old!

On April 1, Nunavut—Canada's newest Northern territory—celebrates its fifth birthday. Nunavut (the Inuktitut word for "our land") was created April 1, 1999 because of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Spring clean-up fights West Nile virus

It's spring and time to think about West Nile virus, which you can get if an infected mosquito bites you. Mosquitoes breed in standing water found in old tires, containers, and other things around your home and yard.

Removing these things or dumping out the water regularly throughout the spring and summer helps lower the number of mosquitoes—and your chances of being bitten.

To find out more, visit Health Canada's website at

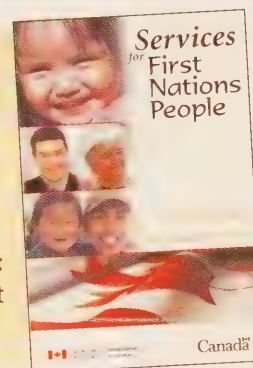
www.westnilevirus.gc.ca

or call toll-free

1 800 816-7292.



The Government of Canada offers a variety of programs and services for First Nations people. *Services for First Nations People: A Government of Canada Guide* describes many of these services and how to access them. **For your free copy call toll-free: 1 800 567-9604** or visit the Internet at www.inac-ainc.gc.ca.



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Complete the reply card, clip it out and send it in (postage is already paid) or call INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre at **1 800 567-9604** or TTY/TDD: **1 866 553-0554**. You can also send us a fax at **(819) 953-2305**, or send us an e-mail message at Update@inac.gc.ca.

For information on Government of Canada programs and services, call toll-free **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232); TTY/TDD at **1 800 465-7735**; or visit www.canada.gc.ca on the Internet.

You can also read *Update* at www.inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html.

Published under the authority of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ottawa, 2004

www.inac.gc.ca

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update

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

WINTER 2003

Good News For Kids!

Getting children ready for school is important to people everywhere. That's why the Government of Canada will spend another \$320 million in the next five years. The new money will help First Nations and Inuit to raise healthy, happy kids.

In the Oneida Nation of the Thames, there are two programs for preschool kids that are funded by the Government of Canada.

"The whole community gets involved, making sure our children are ready for school and for life," says Chief Harry Duxtater. About 5,000 people live in his community near London, Ontario.

The **Aboriginal Head Start** program gets children ready for school by teaching about things like healthy eating and ABCs. (There are Head Start programs both on and off reserves.) Parents and Elders help the program in many ways — by telling legends, for example.

Chief Duxtater says, "Teaching our children our cultural traditions is very important."

The second program is called the **First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative**. It helps families by providing low-cost daycare.

These children's programs will now get more money through the Federal Strategy on Early Childhood Development for First Nations and Other Aboriginal Children. That means more communities can have programs like Head Start and more low-cost child care.



The Government of Canada will spend more money on children. Ethel Blondin-Andrew is Canada's Secretary of State for Children and Youth. With her is Harry Duxtater, Chief of the Oneida Nation of the Thames.

The new money will also go toward:

- more work to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects
- finding more ways to help Aboriginal kids in the future

You can find out more about children's programs by going to these Internet websites:

www.hc-sc.gc.ca, www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca
www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

Call Us Toll Free! 1-800-567-9604

Now you can make a free phone call to find out more about programs and services at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. You can also get free booklets, like the new *Services for First Nations People: A Government of Canada Guide*.

Are you hearing impaired? Call TTY 1-866-553-0554.

There is no long distance charge when you call these numbers.

Canada



A place to connect in Clyde River, Nunavut

Living in the far North, you can feel cut off from the rest of the world sometimes. It was like that for the 830 people of Clyde River a few years ago.

They were moved to a settled community in the 1960s. Since then, they've had trouble with disease, addictions, violence and suicide. "Clyde" (as local people call it) also has the most people in the Baffin Region without jobs.

But they are doing something about it. A few years ago, people got together to talk about how to bring job training and healthy life programs to their community.

That's how the Ilisaqsivik Society got started in 1996. In the Inuktitut language, the word "ilisaqsivik" means "a place where you can recognize yourself."

With help from the local and territorial governments, they bought the old health centre building.

"Ilisaqsivik has given people a place to gather, a place to meet people and a place to connect," says Annette Taylor. She is the acting co-ordinator for the Society.

In 2000, the Society was registered as a charity. Now, they raise money from many sources. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Government of Nunavut, First Air, and the Northwest Company are just some examples.

Thanks to Ilisaqsivik, young people have a safe place to go. They can learn more about their culture. Men who don't have hunting or fishing equipment can now go out on the land with men who do. Pregnant women can learn more about how to have healthy babies.

The place is now "bursting at the seams" with people taking part in the programs. Between 100 and 200 people use the Society's services six days a week.

To learn more about the Ilisaqsivik Society, check out their website on the Internet at www.ilisaqsivik.ca



People in Clyde River, Nunavut started Ilisaqsivik, a place to learn and a place for kids to grow.

Acting on What We Know: Preventing Youth Suicide in First Nations

People everywhere are worried about youth suicide. What can a community do? The Minister of Health Canada and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations asked for this special report. It has ideas to help prevent suicide among First Nation youth. The report was prepared by the Advisory Group on Suicide Prevention and is being distributed to First Nations communities. To get a copy, visit:

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/cp/publications/
preventing_youth_suicide.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/cp/publications/preventing_youth_suicide.htm)

Indian Status?

"How do I register for Indian Status?" "Am I eligible?" People often ask Indian and Northern Affairs Canada these questions.

How to register for Indian Status is simple. Call us and we'll send you a form. But who is eligible for Indian Status? The answer depends. A lot has changed in recent years.

You may qualify if:

- you qualified for Indian Status before the *Indian Act* was changed in 1985
- at least one of your parents is eligible for Status for any reason
- you lost Status by marrying a non-Indian man
- you lost Status because your father was not a Status Indian
- you lost Status because your parents applied to give up Status and First Nation membership through something called "enfranchisement"

Also, the rules are different if you were born before, on, or after April 17, 1985.

Remember, you must *register* for your Indian Status. It is not automatic. To order an Indian Status Registration package or to get more details, call toll free at **1-800-567-9604**.

You can also find out more at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca on the Internet. Look for "Status — FAQ" on the left side of the Web page. Click on the words and you will find the information.

Budget 2003 — What's in it for you?

The Government of Canada announced a new budget in February, and there is good news. Another \$2.2 billion will be spent to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal and Northern people.

Here is how some of the money will be spent.

Healthy Families and Communities

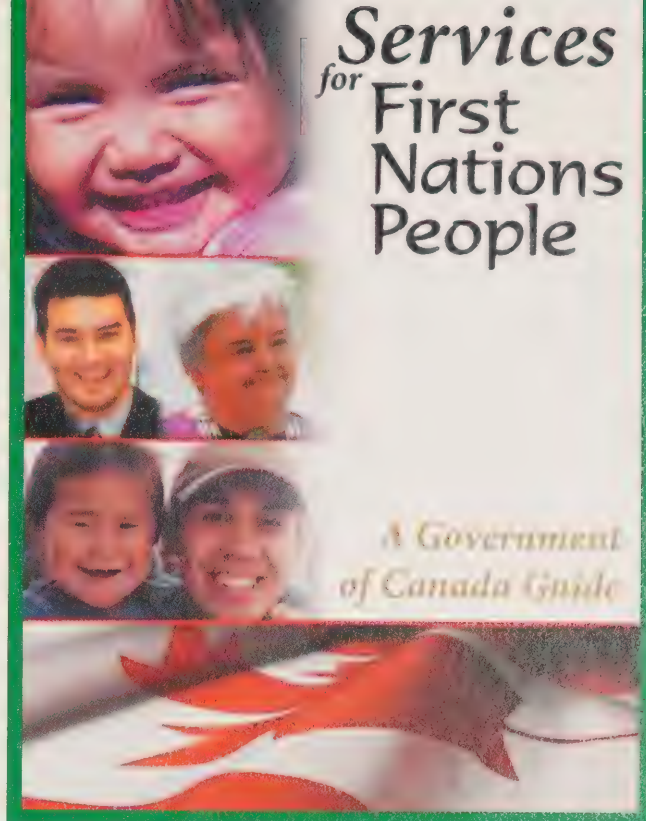
- \$1.3 billion on First Nations and Inuit health programs
- \$600 million for safe water systems
- \$42 million for First Nations policing and better safety in communities

Education and Culture

- \$172.5 million for Aboriginal languages and culture
- \$35 million for more child care and early learning programs
- \$35 million for First Nations schools

Jobs

- \$25 million for training and new jobs on major projects across Canada
- \$20 million to support new and growing Aboriginal businesses
- \$12 million so Aboriginal people can be more involved in managing fisheries. The money will also create new jobs.



To get a copy, call us toll free at 1-800-567-9604

For More Information

You can read more about the budget at this website:
www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

Click on "Budget 2003: Building the Canada We Want".

Thanks for telling us what you think!

Thanks for sending in the reply cards. Please take a moment to fill in the card. We want to make sure that you got your copy of *Update* in the mail. What did you think about it? You can put your reply card in the mail right away – you don't need a stamp.

Here is what some of you said last time.

"This *Update* is great! Keep it coming!"

"This publication is informative, important and challenging."

Many people want to hear more about jobs. We're listening! Look for stories about jobs in the next *Update*.

We would like to hear more of your story ideas. So send in your comment card — your ideas help us write *Update*.



We would like to receive your comments and suggestions.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Did you find this issue informative? ☐ yes ☐ no

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☐ community radio ☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper ☐ friendship centre



Community members in Northern Ontario welcomed the chance to directly reach out to Minister Nault.

Counting all people!

Here are some interesting facts from the 2001 Canada Census.

- There are more Aboriginal people in Canada than ever before.
- Nearly one million people in Canada say they are Aboriginal.
- One third of the Aboriginal population is under age 15. About one fifth of the non-Aboriginal population is under age 15.
- One out of every four Aboriginal people can speak an Aboriginal language.

Read all about it on the Internet at www.statcan.ca

Governance Legislation: What's New with Governance

Many people are telling the government what they think about the proposed First Nations Governance Act, Bill C-7. There have been many consultations.

The bill has been presented to Parliament. Now, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources is studying Bill C-7. This committee is travelling across the country to hear from First Nations people and others.

The proposed Act is a work in progress. The committee is taking everyone's suggestions, opinions and concerns into account.

They will look at the proposed Act again, clause by clause. The committee will then report back to Parliament this spring. After this report, the bill will be presented again through a Second Reading in the House of Commons.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Robert D. Nault, supports the work of the Standing Committee. He asked the committee to listen to First Nations people.

The goal is to make a First Nations Governance Act that will give First Nations people power to make sure their communities work better for them.

You can find out more about what's new on the Internet. There is a special website with all the news and information about the First Nations Governance Act. You'll find it at www.fng-gpn.gc.ca



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update

FALL 2003

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

Education takes you places

Tania Marynowich and Jason Holway know that post-secondary education can take you places.

Now Tania and Jason are studying to be Canada Lands Surveyors. Surveyors measure the land using satellite and other methods. This information shows rights on Canada Lands and helps decide where houses, schools or roads can be built.

Because Canada Lands include reserves, national parks, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, Tania and Jason have travelled across Canada to work. They have worked on polar ice caps and the top of mountain ranges.

"In this job you can travel to many different places and meet many interesting people all over Canada," Tania says.

Both Tania and Jason agree that their studies have opened doors to interesting jobs and travel.

"I saw that education helps to get a good job," Tania says.

"Geomatics, and surveying in particular, is really an exciting and rewarding career," says Jason.

To learn more about becoming a Canada Lands Surveyor, visit <http://acls-aatc.ca> on the Internet. ■



Tania Marynowich surveys land near the Arctic ocean.

Post-secondary students — Check out the E-Directory!

This online directory lists scholarships and bursaries for Aboriginal students. You can search the E-Directory by region, subject, funders and key words to find out what to apply for. Visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services*, then *Education*, then *Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards Guide*. Or call toll-free 1 800 567-9604, TTY/TDD 1 866 553-0554.

Canada



Dean Tanner and Cherish Lavallee from Cowessess, SK, Joscelyne Ponsioen from Whitehorse, YT and Jesse Mike from Iqaluit, Nunavut travelled to Ottawa for an encounter with Canada.

Meeting, learning, understanding

Thinking about becoming a doctor? Are TV and film more your thing?

If you are a high school student, you can learn first-hand about your career interests while meeting other young Canadians.

The program is called **Encounters with Canada**. Every year it brings more than 130 students from across Canada to The Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre in Ottawa.

You can choose from 11 different week-long sessions, such as:

- Science and Technology
- Law
- Sports and Fitness
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Arts and Culture
- Medicine and Health

You can take part in activities focused on the week's theme, such as mock courtroom trials or artist workshops.

This year, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is sponsoring First Nation or Inuit students to take part each week from September 2003 to April 2004. If you are between 15 and 17 years old, you can apply for funding to be part of the next encounter!

To find out how, call Encounters toll-free at **1 800 361-0419**, e-mail info@encounters-rencontres.ca or visit www.encounters-rencontres.ca on the Internet.

Encounters with Canada is a Canadian Unity Council program. Transportation costs are covered by Exchanges Canada, a Canadian Heritage program. ■

Meeting special education needs

Iver the next three years, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will spend over \$248 million on the Special Education Program. This will give special needs students more help in the classroom. Program funding will be renewed in 2005.

In British Columbia, First Nations schools get funding through the First Nations Education Steering Committee, a non-profit group. The money then goes straight to the schools. This way, schools decide the best way to spend money.

The steering committee in BC and the First Nation Education Council in Quebec are the only two groups who fund First Nations schools like this. After June 2005, other regions will be eligible to manage special education programs in the same way.

Nak'Albun Elementary School in Fort St James, BC, has seen the difference this makes.

"Special Education Program funding lets us target the money where we know it needs to go," said Principal Paul Landry. "This is a phenomenal help."

The Special Education Program also funds things like teacher training. For example, last year Nak'Albun brought in a speech language pathologist, a professional who is an expert on speech problems.

"A speech pathologist came to the school to do student testing," said Cheryl Peterson, Nak'Albun's special education teacher. "Not only was I trained to do this test, but with the funding we bought the test. Now we can give it to students on our own."

You can read more about the *Special Education Program in the Special Education National Program Guidelines*. For a copy of the guidelines, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or **TTY/TDD 1 866 553-0554**. ■

Learning for Special Education Teachers!

Do your students have special needs? To find out more about training in special education, visit the new E-Directory of Training Opportunities at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca. Click on *Programs and Services*, *Education*, then *Special Education Training Opportunities*. Or call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or **TTY/TDD 1 866 553-0554** for more information.



Education report card



From kindergarten to university, there are programs to help your kids grow.

First Nations and the Government of Canada are working together to make sure First Nation and Inuit students do well in school.

Here are some highlights from a report on education:

Elementary and Secondary Education

\$1,127 million will be spent in 2003 and 2004 on teaching, tuition to provincial public schools, school supplies and equipment, student transportation and guidance for over 119,000 students living on-reserve.

More than \$1 billion will be spent over the next four years to run the 503 schools on-reserve. This includes building about 23 new schools.

Special Education

\$248.1 million will be spent over the next three years on special education services to students living on-reserve.

Post-Secondary Education

\$304 million will be spent to support about 27,000 students. Almost 100 percent of programs are run by First Nations.

First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy
\$24 million per year will be spent on four programs:

- Student Summer Employment Opportunities Program
- Science and Technology Program
- Youth Work Experience Program
- Career Promotion and Awareness Program

New Paths

\$40 million will be spent in 2003 and 2004 on education projects and programs that:

- improve classroom teaching
- give more control to parents and the community
- help students move from school to work

You can read about these programs and more in a report on education spending. For a free copy call toll-free at **1 800 567-9604**, TTY/TDD **1 866 553-0554**, or visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca on the Internet. ■

First Nations control over education helps First Nations students do better in school. The Minister's National Working Group on Education supports greater First Nations control over education. You can read their recommendations in *Our Children – Keepers of the Sacred Knowledge*. For a copy call toll-free **1 800 567-9604**, TTY/TTD **1 866 553-0554**, or visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca.

Services for Children

Our children are our future. They deserve every opportunity to lead happy, healthy and productive lives. The *Services for Children* guide provides descriptions of more than 100 programs and services offered by the Government of Canada. For a free copy of the guide, call toll-free **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)** or visit www.canada.gc.ca on the Internet.



Keep those cards and letters coming!

"I always find your publication of interest, full of information."

Thanks to all of you who send us comments. Fill out the reply card and mail yours in today! Postage is paid. Want to see a story covered?

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☐ band office

☐ community radio

☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper

☐ friendship centre



Self-reliance, education and teamwork

Miawpukek First Nation is a community of 800 people on the southeast shore of Newfoundland. Since 1986, the Miawpukek have taken care of their own water supply, roads, band-owned buildings, reserve grounds, sewage, garbage collection, fire protection and snow removal.

Tammy Drew, General Manager, says a focus on education and training has been a big part of Miawpukek's successful public works management.

"We have always promoted our own people becoming educated and doing our own work," says Tammy. "This has let us successfully build and maintain high quality projects."

You can read more about Miawpukek in a new booklet called *Sharing the Story*. It tells of First Nations and Inuit communities that have come up with Aboriginal solutions to Aboriginal challenges.

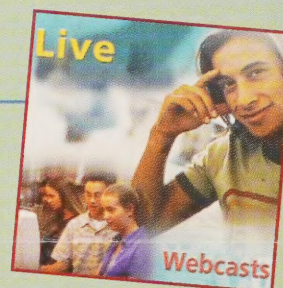
For a free copy, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/index_e.html and click on *Publications*, then "Sharing the Story: Experiences of Six First Nations Communities." ■

The First Nations University of Canada

On June 21, 2003, the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College became the First Nations University of Canada. In 27 years, over 3000 students have earned degrees, certificates and diplomas at the university's campuses in Regina, Saskatoon and Northern-Prince Albert. To learn more, visit www.firstnationsuniversity.ca.

Coming soon to a computer near you!

One Inuit and three First Nations communities will each soon host a live webcast to bring together young people from across Canada to discuss issues important to them. Access to the webcasts will be available through most computers, and dates and times for the broadcasts will be posted at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/connex once confirmed. For more information, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604**, or e-mail connex@ainc-inac.gc.ca.



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For information on Government of Canada programs and services, call toll-free **1-800-0-Canada (1-800-622-6232)**; TTY/TDD at **1-800-465-7735**; or visit www.canada.gc.ca.

You can also read the *Update* at www.inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html.

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